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424

PART XXXI.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

76

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ERRATA.

No. 510, p. 374. No. 1458 to Sir A. H. Layard, dated November 27, should have appeared at p. 428.

No. 544, p. 394. Mr. Corbett's No. 537 should have been dated November 16, not May 16.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

Part XXXI.

No. 1.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 496.)

My Lord, *Athens, October* 12, 1878.

M. DELYANNI told me yesterday that the Government had not as yet received an answer from any of the Great Powers to the appeal made to them for their mediation with the Porte on the subject of the rectification of frontiers recommended at Berlin.

He assured me that the Government would await patiently the result of their appeal, and that orders had been given on the frontier that nothing should be done to bring about a collision with Turkey, and that many subjects of complaints against the authorities in Thessaly had not been taken up in order to avoid exciting irritation.

M. Delyanni told me also that from the reports of Greek Consuls in Thessaly complete anarchy appeared to reign in that province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 2.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 497.)

My Lord, *Athens, October* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Her Majesty's ship "Flamingo" returned to her anchorage in the Piræus on the 10th instant from Volo.

Captain Hall, her Commander, informs me that the territory near the Greek frontier was very strongly occupied by the Turks, and that reinforcements were expected. He was told that the Albanian Guards along the Greek frontier had deserted, and that the zaptichs, having received no pay for a long time, had also deserted.

In general, Captain Hall was given to understand, and it is confirmed from other sources, that something like complete anarchy prevails throughout Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 2[a].

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 501.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Athens, October 14, 1878.*

WITH reference to the statements contained in the letter of the Vekil of the Protestant community in Turkey addressed to Sir Austen H. Layard, copy of which was inclosed in your Lordship's despatch No. 195 of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to state that, by the first Article of the Greek Constitution, every "known" religion is tolerated, and those persons belonging to them are allowed freely to exercise them under the protection of the laws; proselytism and any interference hostile to the dominant Orthodox creed is forbidden. At this moment Mahommedans, Jews, and Evangelicals meet freely throughout Greece and perform their religious rites without interference.

It is true, however, that, as regards religious teaching in schools where scholars professing the Orthodox religion are admitted, by a law which has been in force for very many years, the teaching of the orthodox Catechism by a Greek priest to such pupils is obligatory.

The Orthodox Catechism is to be taught to children professing the Orthodox religion only, and not to all the pupils, as seems to be implied by the Vekil in his letter above mentioned.

It is not true that the Greek Government obliges a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ or of the Virgin Mary to be exhibited in schools opened for the benefit of the general population, and I have been unable to ascertain that any school has been closed for non-compliance with such regulations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 3.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1289.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 19, 1878.*

WITH reference to Mr. Corbett's despatch to your Lordship, No 501 of the 14th instant, sent through me under Flying Seal, I have the honour to inclose copy of a letter which I have thought it just to the Greek Government to address to the Protestant Vekil, pointing out to him that he was in error as regards certain statements made to me in his letter of the 24th August, copy of which was forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1,058 of the 25th August last.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 3.

Sir A. H. Layard to M. Matteosian.

Sir, *Therapia, October 19, 1878.*

IN a letter you addressed to me on the 24th August last, a copy of which I forwarded to the Marquis of Salisbury, you stated that the Greek Government permits no school to be opened within its jurisdiction for the general benefit of the population unless the catechism of the Greek Church be taught to the pupils by a Greek priest, and unless a picture of the Christ or of the Virgin Mary be exhibited in the school, that several schools that were highly flourishing and patronized by the best Greek families of Athens and other places have been closed by the Government, because the directors could not comply with the above-mentioned law, and that the Government declines to recognize any Greek Evangelical organization. I think it right to inform you that I have ascertained, from a perfectly trustworthy source, that under the 1st Article of the Greek Constitution, which declares that every known religion is tolerated, although proselytism is forbidden, Mahommedans and Jews, as well as all Christian sects, meet freely throughout Greece, and perform their religious rites without interference.

It is true, however, that as regards religious teaching in schools where scholars professing the Orthodox religion are admitted, the teaching of the Orthodox catechism by a Greek priest to such pupils is obligatory, but not to all the pupils, as you seemed to imply in your letter.

It is not the fact that the Greek Government oblige a picture of the Christ or of the Virgin Mary to be exhibited in schools opened for the benefit of the general population, nor can I learn that any school has been closed, as you state, for non-compliance with such regulations.

It would appear, therefore, that you have been misinformed on this subject.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 4.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1290.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 19, 1878.*

THE Turkish newspapers announced the appointment of M. Maximoff, recently Russian Consul at Monastir, as Consul for Kurdistan, to reside at Diabekir. I would venture to suggest to your Lordship that it is of great importance that a British Consul should be named to Kurdistan with as little delay as possible, as there can be little doubt that Russian intrigues will not be actively prosecuted in that region, and that they may lead to grave results unless carefully watched, and, if possible, checked.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 5.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1294. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 21, 1878.*

I HAD occasion this morning to ask one of the legal advisers of the Porte whether any steps had yet been taken to put into execution the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, with respect to the appointment of Commissions for settling the details of the new laws to be introduced into the provinces of Turkey in Europe, for which special provision had not been made in the Treaty, and whether any decision had been come to as to the nature of the "Règlement" it was intended to propose for them.

The gentleman, to whom I spoke on this subject, informed me that he believed that it was the intention of the Porte to wait until the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia had completed its work and had prepared the new organic laws for that province, which would then be applied to the other provinces referred to in the Treaty in the manner provided by it, and with such modifications as might be considered necessary to meet special circumstances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 6.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1295.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 21, 1878.*

I ASKED Safvet Pasha this morning whether the Porte had yet taken any steps for the formation of the militia and gendarmerie for Eastern Roumelia. I pointed out to his Highness that the time for the evacuation of that province by the Russian army was not very far distant, and that it was of great importance that when it was withdrawn its place should be at once supplied by some force capable of maintaining order and of affording full protection to life and property. Should the Porte not be prepared to take

the necessary measures to this effect, Russia might avail herself of the pretext for not evacuating the province. As the Porte was forbidden by the Treaty to send troops into the province, it was absolutely necessary that the gendarmerie should be prepared to act as soon as the Russians withdrew.

Safvet Pasha replied that he did not know how either a local gendarmerie or militia could be constituted, unless the civil administration of the province were in the hands of the Porte. It had no power at present to raise men in Eastern Roumelia for the purpose, and the Russian authorities instead of forming a gendarmerie in which both the Mussulman and Christian element was represented, according to the terms of the Treaty of Berlin, were constituting an army of Bulgarians officered by Russians.

I observed that it was partly in consequence of the difficulty placed in the way of the Porte in carrying out the arrangements contemplated by the Treaty of Berlin, that Her Majesty's Government had, no doubt, suggested that it should at once name a Governor-General of the Province.

His Highness answered that he was fully aware of the expediency of taking this step, but he should be grateful to Her Majesty's Government if they would ascertain whether the French Government would support the Turkish Government, if it did so. Russia had declared that she would not permit any part of the civil administration of the province to pass into the hands of the Porte, and would not recognize a Governor appointed by it. Such being the case the Turkish Government could not name one unless it were certain of the approval and support of the majority of the Signatory Powers.

I suggested to Safvet Pasha that at any rate a nucleus of gendarmerie might be formed in Constantinople out of the numerous Mussulman refugees from Eastern Roumelia, and that the British officers already in the service of the Porte, and who had hitherto not been employed, might be directed to organize and drill it. His Highness, however, thought that as it would be entirely composed of Mussulmans, Russia might raise objections, although as soon as the authority of the Porte were restored in the province, the relative proportion of Christians might be added to it.

It appears to me very necessary that the Porte should be enabled in some way to fulfil its Treaty engagement to form a mixed gendarmerie, otherwise, when the time comes for the withdrawal of the Russians, either they will have an excuse for not leaving, or a state of disorder and anarchy may ensue on their departure, which may afford them a pretext to return.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 7.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1207. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a very interesting private letter from the agent of the Imperial Ottoman Bank at Philippopolis, of which Mr. Foster has been good enough to permit me to take a copy. The incident, the writer mentions, of the ill-treatment of an Italian subject by the Russo-Bulgarian Prefet of Police has been brought to the notice of Prince Labanoff by the Italian Chargé d'Affaires.

It seems evident, from information which reaches me from various quarters, that it is the intention of Russia that Sofia should be made the seat of the Bulgarian Government, and not Tirnova, which the Treaty of Berlin evidently intended for the capital. The Russians, in inducing the Powers to include Sofia in Bulgaria, well knew that they were preparing the way not only for the future annexation to that province of Eastern Roumelia, but of Macedonia also.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 7.

Extract from a Letter, dated Philippopolis, October 15, 1878.

LE Prince Dondoukoff est retourné Samedi matin, le 12 courant, de son voyage à Andrinople et Constantinople. On assure maintenant positivement qu'il transférera le siége de son Gouvernement à Sophia avant la fin du mois d'Octobre (n.s.)

La Commission Européenne doit arriver ici en huit ou dix jours; le Prince la recevra et partira immédiatement après.

Il est un fait assez singulier que le Prince-Commissaire Impérial ait maintenu jusqu'à présent le siége du Gouvernement de la Bulgarie à Philippopoli, ville situé dans un pays étranger. Mais le but de sa résidence dans cette province a été atteint; l'organisation du Gouvernement de ce pays, dans un sens exclusivement Bulgaro-Russe, est un fait accompli, et la Commission Européenne, qui était chargée de cette tâche, se trouvera en face d'un œuvre achevé.

Dans la Bulgarie, que j'avais occasion de visiter il y a un mois, rien n'est encore organisé, parce que toute l'attention du Prince, toute son activité, étaient dirigées vers la Roumélie Orientale, que les Russes se plaisent d'appeler la Bulgarie du Sud.

Le choix de Sophia pour résidence du Commissaire Impérial doit être considéré comme un des nombreux indices qui démontrent l'intention des Russes de ne pas abandonner la Roumélie Orientale au sort que lui destinait le Traité de Berlin. Sophia, située dans un coin éloigné de la Bulgarie, séparée par les montagnes du reste du pays, et sans communication rapide, ne peut être choisie pour capitale que dans le but d'entretenir de cet endroit une vive agitation dans les provinces limitrophes de la Roumélie et de la Macédoine.

Le Prince Dondoukoff a un Ministère complet, dans lequel il ne manque que le Ministre des Finances, qu'il n'a pas pu trouver jusqu'à présent. Le Cabinet est composé comme suit:—

Général Dommantovitch, Chef de la Chancellerie du Province, et Président du Conseil.
Général Zolobaroff, Ministre de la Guerre.
Général Gresser, Ministre de l'Intérieur.
Marin Drinoff (Bulgare), Ministre de l'Instruction Publique.
Consul Josefovitch, Ministre de l'Extérieur.
Les Finances et Travaux Publics sont du ressort du Chef de la Chancellerie.

Le plus grand soin et la plus grande activité ont été portés sur l'organisation de la milice, ou plutôt armée, de la Roumélie, qui, comme la police, est composée exclusivement de Bulgares et d'officiers et sergents Russes.

Ici à Philippopoli on montre aussi une certaine activité pour des travaux publics. On fait construire un conduit d'eau pour faire venir à la ville l'eau de la montagne; on élèvera un monument à l'armée Russe sur le champ de bataille près de la ville; on élargit les rues; on a fait un jardin municipal.

Malheureusement ces travaux se font aux frais de la population Turque, qui a déjà tant souffert. Tout le monde doit être frappé de la différence qui existe dans le traitement des Musulmans par les autorités Russes à Andrinople et ici. A Andrinople les Russes font tout leur possible pour se concilier les sympathies des Turcs; ils leur ont fourni de l'argent pour illuminer les minarets des mosquées durant le Ramazan; des coups de canon annonçaient chaque matin et soir le commencement et la fin du jeûne; pendant les fêtes du Bâïram des bandes de musique militaire jouaient dans la cour de la grande mosquée du Sultan Sélim; les excès de la population Bulgare sont empêchés et punis. Ici à Philippopoli aucun des nombreux minarets était illuminé; toutes les mosquées sont fermées, les plus grandes converties en dépôts militaires. La population Turque est exposée à tous les actes arbitraires de la police Bulgare, et opprimée comme si l'on voulait l'exterminer; un Général Russe, haut placé, a dit devant moi, que l'extermination des Turcs était le seul moyen pour garantir la tranquillité à ce pays.

Les chilliks et les villages habités par les Musulmans ont été pillés et brûlés, ou occupés par les Bulgares; les autorités Russes empêchent les émigrés retournant de Constantinople de gagner leurs villages; ils sont retenus à Philippopoli et forcés à la corvée moyennant un pain et 1½ à 2½ piastres par jour, l'argent étant souvent soustrait par les agents de la police. Les Russes disent que c'est par charité que l'on fait travailler ces hommes dépourvus de tout moyen de subsistance.

Dans la ville de Philippopoli toutes les maisons Turques, sans exception, ont été pillées et dévastées par les Bulgares après l'occupation de la ville par les troupes Russes. Les autorités Russes, bien loin d'empêcher ce pillage, y prennent part elles-mêmes;

plusieurs habitants Turcs avaient confiés une partie de leur mobilier le plus précieux à des amis Chrétiens et Européens. Les Bulgares dénonçaient cela à la police et l'autorité forçait les dépositaires (entre autres M. Tacchella et l'Archevêque Catholique) de délivrer les biens que les Turcs leur avaient confiés en alléguant que toute propriété Turque appartenait aux Russes. L'autorité faisait vendre ces biens aux enchères publiques, mais on dit qu'avant la vente des officiers Russes partageaient entre eux la meilleure partie du butin.

Beaucoup de maisons Turques sont démolies chaque jour encore par les autorités Russes, soit pour créer des places, des rues, et des promenades publiques, soit pour gagner seulement du matériel; d'autres maisons Turques sont occupées par les Bulgares ou louées par la police à des étrangers. A moi aussi la police offrait à louer une maison Turque à moitié démolie, après m'avoir pris une maison que j'avais déjà louée, et le Préfet de Police était très-surpris quand je lui disais que d'après mon avis l'autorité n'avait pas le droit de disposer de la propriété des particuliers, qui peuvent revenir chaque jour.

Pour laisser à la ville une trace de leur passage, les Russes font construire un jardin public dans le quartier Turc sur l'emplacement d'un cimetière. Les Turcs étaient forcés de casser eux-mêmes les pierres qui couvraient les tombeaux, de profaner ce lieu saint et d'y faire les travaux de terrassement. Les marbres des tombeaux servaient à bâtir le mur d'enceinte du jardin.

Par le Traité de Berlin les capitulations ont été maintenues pour la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale. Longtemps les Consuls étrangers ne furent pas reconnus par les autorités Russes; maintenant ils le sont, mais la police ne fait aucun cas des capitulations, et presque chaque semaine les Consuls ont à se plaindre d'une infraction. Ainsi un Italien fut mis en prison par le Préfet de Police parce qu'il refusait de payer une amende arbitraire de 5 pols pour ne pas avoir bien balayé la rue devant sa maison. Après vingt-quatre heures l'Italien trouvait moyen de faire parvenir un message à son Consul (Consul de France) qui le réclama; le Préfet de Police, au lieu de donner suite à la réclamation du Consul, fit venir le détenu, le rossa brutalement, et le fit mettre aux fers pour en avoir appelé à son Consul. Le troisième jour seulement le Consul parvint à faire mettre en liberté son sujet, qui fut raillé à sa sortie par le Préfet de Police, qui lui disait: "Eh bien, comment trouvez-vous mes fers. Si vous invoquez encore une fois l'intervention de votre Consul, je vous y laisserai trente jours." Cette affaire a été rapportée à l'Ambassade de France, qui devait le communiquer à l'Ambassade d'Italie; mais en attendant le Préfet de Police, un Capitaine Russe, garde ses fonctions. Si les autorités Turques avait jamais fait pareille chose!

Le fameux brigand Bulgare, Petko, qui depuis des années infestait ce pays, et qui entre autres méfaits avait attaqué avec sa bande, il y a quelques années, la station du chemin de fer à Dédégatch, où il avait tué plusieurs personnes, était amené ces jours-ci à Philippopoli ayant commis de nouveaux méfaits dans des villages Turcs. Après vingt-quatre heures, il fut relâché, et le journal Bulgare officiel, "Maritza," le célébrait comme le héros de la libération des Bulgares. Petko est parti pour la montagne, où il organisera de nouveau une bande pour saccager les villages Turcs.

Les dimes ont été adjugées à M. Maréchal, un favori du Prince. Maréchal a cédé son contrat à Vagliano de Constantinople en réalisant, comme on dit, un bénéfice net de près de 1,000,000 fr. somme qui aurait pu être gagnée au Trésor public si l'adjudication ne s'était pas faite d'une façon tellement irrégulière.

Ces jours derniers, beaucoup d'émigrés Grecs et Bulgares nous sont arrivés du côté de Tchorlu; ils ne disent pas que les Turcs ont commis des méfaits à leur égard, mais ils n'ont pas de confiance dans l'avenir, et il paraît que les Russes leur conseillent l'émigration dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Le retour de la tranquillité paraît encore bien loin, et il est regrettable que la Commission Européenne tarde tellement à venir ici, laissant ainsi le champ entièrement libre à l'agitation Bulgare et aux intrigues Russes.

No. 8.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1208. Confidential.)

Therapia, October 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a despatch from the French Vice-Consul at Sofia to his Ambassador here, reporting an engagement said to have taken

place between Bulgarians and Turks near Kustendil. This despatch has been communicated to me confidentially by M. Fournier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 8.

M. Deslett to M. Fournier.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Vice-Consulat de France à Sofia, le 15 Octobre*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que M. Alabine, Gouverneur de la ville, a été révoqué de ses fonctions et a quitté Sophia Jeudi dernier.

Il sera remplacé, dit on, par le Président du Tribunal de Justice à Philippopoli. Le Colonel Louratchef, Vice-Gouverneur, remplit par intérim les fonctions de Gouverneur.

D'après un bruit qui court en ville depuis quelques jours, les volontaires Bulgares ont franchi, paraît-il, les frontières, et ont attaqué le 9 de ce mois, à une distance de six heures de Kustendil, les avant-postes Turcs composés de 200 Bachi-Bozouks Albanais.

Après un engagement qui a duré environ deux heures, les Bulgares se seraient rendus maîtres des positions et les Turcs se seraient repliés vers Ezri Palanka.

Par suite de ce combat, il semble que les Albanais se concentrent en grande force dans les environs de cette dernière ville. Les uns évaluent leur nombre à 15,000, tandis que d'autres prétendent qu'ils sont plus de 20,000.

Cette dernière nouvelle paraît prendre confirmation, car il y a eu ici un mouvement de troupes Russes assez important dans le courant de la semaine dernière. Ainsi, quatre bataillons d'infanterie appartenant au 9ème Corps sont partis Jeudi, le 10 de ce mois, pour renforcer, dit-on, la garnison de Kustendil. Ils ont été suivis le lendemain par deux escadrons de cavalerie et une batterie d'artillerie composée de huit canons.

Le Général Makaroff, Commandant la circonscription de Sophia, qui s'était absenté dernièrement pour aller inspecter les troupes qui se trouvent entre Kustendil et Palanka, est retourné ici avant-hier. Le même jour de son arrivée, il a fait annoncer aux notables de la ville, par l'intermédiaire de l'autorité locale que, d'après un ordre télégraphique émanant du quartier-général, les troupes Russes devaient être considérées par la population Bulgare comme une armée native et pas comme une armée d'occupation.

Le baraquement se poursuivent avec activité en dehors de la ville, une partie sur la route qui conduit à Roustchouk, et une autre sur celle de Kustendil. Leur forme est, comme d'habitude, une simple rectangle sans aucune espèce d'avant corps; ils se font suivant l'usage du pays en bois et en terre. Leur nombre n'est pas encore bien fixé, mais, dans ce moment, il y en a une dizaine en construction. Chaque baraque pourra contenir de 200 à 250 personnes suivant leurs dimensions.

Les troupes Bulgares sont à peu près complétement habillés. On vient de leur donner leurs capotes d'hiver.

Le premier bataillon de ces troupes passera l'hiver à Sophia, le deuxième à Kustendil, et le troisième à Radomis.

Les chefs de ces bataillons, ainsi que les capitaines des compagnies, sont des officiers Russes qui ont opté pour servir dans l'armée Bulgare, tout en se réservant le droit de pouvoir reprendre le service avec leur grade dans l'armée Russe, s'ils le désiraient.

Pour les officiers subalternes, et beaucoup de sous-officiers, ils ont été pris parmi les Bulgares qui ont fait leurs études militaires en Russie.

Cent cinquante jeunes recrues ont été envoyés à l'école d'application à Widdin, et 150 autres à celle de Tirnovo.

L'instruction des nouvelles troupes est poussée avec une très-grande activité, et déjà elles font les principaux mouvements avec assez de régularité. Ce qui se comprend facilement, car on les exerce pendant six heures par jour, trois heures le matin et trois heures le soir, soit aux différentes marches, soit au maniement des armes.

Les huit derniers canons arrivés ici, pour les troupes Bulgares, sont partis ce matin pour Radomis.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Gérant du Vice-Consulat,

(Signé) A. DEOLETT.

No. 9.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1300.) [B. B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, October 22, 1878.*

COLONEL HOME, at my request, sent Captain Ardagh to inquire into the condition of the district of Rodosto since its evacuation by the Russians, and into the truth of the statements as to massacres and outrages alleged to have been committed by the Mussulmans upon the Christian population. I have the honour to forward to your Lordship a copy of Captain Ardagh's Report, and your Lordship will perceive that, after a careful investigation, he is of opinion that, with the exception of isolated cases of murder and robbery, which may be considered as acts of brigandage almost inevitable in a country recently abandoned by a retreating army, and where such acts have, at all times, more or less prevailed, there have been no cases of deliberate outrages upon the Christians. It is, indeed, remarkable that, after the cruel manner in which they treated the Mussulman population during the time they could do so with impunity under Russian protection, they have not been exposed to reprisals.

Captain Ardagh states to me that the Turkish authorities are doing their utmost to prevent retaliation on the part of the Mahommedans, and that the measures they have taken for the protection of life and property are to a great extent effective. What is required is a more summary mode of dealing with crimes, and of punishing those guilty of them. I shall speak on this subject to the Grand Vizier.

Captain Ardagh informs me that he heard of no instances of Christians abandoning their homes to accompany the Russian army in its retreat, unless the persons reported to him as missing had done so for some special reasons. He found the Christian villages everywhere uninjured, whilst those belonging to Mussulmans had been for the most part almost entirely destroyed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 9.

Captain Ardagh, R.E., to Colonel Home, R.E.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Constantinople, October 20, 1878.*

IN accordance with your instructions, I have the honour to report that I have visited Rodosto and several villages of that district, and have returned to Constantinople to-day.

On the 15th October I went by one of the Mahoussé steamers to Rodosto. There were about twenty Moslem refugees returning to their homes among the passengers.

The stoppages at Silivri and Eriklia were too short to admit of going on shore, but tranquillity was said to prevail in these districts.

Rumours of outrages were prevalent at Rodosto. It was stated that the road from that town to Muratli, the nearest railway station on the Constantinople-Adrianople line, was unsafe; that several murders and robberies had occurred on it, and that communication between the villages in the vicinity had almost ceased in consequence of the perils of travelling; and, in short, that a panic prevailed since the departure of the Russian troops at the beginning of the month.

On the following day I went with Mr. Dussi, British Vice-Consul at Rodosto, to call on the Governor and local authorities and the Greek and Armenian Bishops who represent the interests of their co-religionists. Selami Pasha, the General commanding the corps charged with the occupation of the country as the Russian troops retire, was present, having come over from his present head quarters at Tchorlou.

The Turkish authorities told me that there was no unusual amount of crime, and that only one murder had been reported since the re-establishment of the Turkish authorities. The Governor had formerly held the same position before the arrival of the Russian troops, and knows the district well. The Russians seem to have behaved tolerably well during the occupation. Order was maintained, but there were many robberies and wilful damage to property by the soldiers which remained unredressed. The officers and men spent money freely, and the Greek inhabitants appeared sorry for their departure.

The Armenian Bishop stated that all his nation in the district had nothing to

complain of, and that he had received no reports of outrages. The Armenian population is confined to large towns, and they live on good terms with the Turks.

The Greek Bishop was then absent on an inspection of the Greek villages at the request of the Governor. On his return on the following evening, Mr. Dussi and I visited him, and he reported that according to the information which he had received in the villages, about twenty-six or twenty-seven persons had been murdered since the departure of the Russians, according to the following detail:—

Villages.	Killed.	Wounded.
Panados	1	..
Scolari (Ashiklar)	20	20
Semitlu	5 or 6	..
Total	26 or 27	20

The Bishop stated that on the 8th or 9th October he went to the Governor, and informed him, in the presence of Mr. Dussi, that great alarm existed among the pastoral population of Scolari, and that they were afraid to take their flocks to their pastures in the mountains.

The Mutessarif (Governor of sandjak) promised to send detachments of soldiers to protect the villages, and patrols to guard the shepherds, but gave me to understand that this had not been done up to the 16th. The Bishop desired that he should not be quoted as an authority for these statements, and I assured him that Her Majesty's Ambassador would not allow his name to transpire.

After collecting the opinions of some other persons, I found that the reports as to murders and outrages were so much at variance that no reliance could be placed in them.

Accordingly on the 18th I set out for a tour of the villages, Mr. Dussi kindly volunteering to accompany me and aid in the inquiry by his valuable local knowledge, and by his thorough acquaintance with both Turkish and Greek.

We went first to Panados, a village on the shores of the sea of Marmora, six miles south of Rodosto, with a population of 1,100 Greek and 100 Turkish inhabitants. A sergeant and twelve men are stationed here.

On inquiry I learned that Anton Payotta, a Greek gardener of the village, but in the employment of a Mussulman Bey of Ainadjik, at his farm at Musratfakli, a village ten miles distant in the direction of Ainadjik, had been missing since the 16th October, and was believed by his wife to have been murdered. There was no further evidence, and the employer, whom we subsequently saw at Ainadjik, knew nothing of him.

It was stated that a Turk named Halil, of the village of Kelishlü, about two hours from Panados, suspected of having murdered a Greek of Panados some nine years since, had recently reappeared and menaced the villagers with fire and sword. As the villagers were in terror of him, and as he had no business in the village, the sergeant promised to arrest him the next time he came round. No other case of disturbances was reported.

We then went on to Ashiklar (Turk), Scolari (Greek), a large village on a northern spur of the Tekir Dagh range, at an elevation of 1,050 feet above the sea, and eight miles west of Panados. It has a population of 5,000, exclusively Greek, and mostly shepherds, and seems to be a very thriving place. Mr. Dussi informed me that the village formerly owned 600,000 sheep, and that the inhabitants now possess 300,000.

The pastures are mainly in the mountains, and the manned shepherds are at the mercy of parties of armed men.

Before entering into details it will be well to explain that a Moslem village named Rouspeli, about one hour's distance from Ashiklar and Semitlü, was deserted by its inhabitants on the approach of the Russians, and was subsequently plundered and burned. Who the authors of this act of Vandalism were, cannot well be established; but it is admitted that it was not done by the Russians, and as the Turks themselves obviously would not have destroyed their own homesteads, it seems all but certain that it was done by the Christians, i.e. the Greeks, and, in all probability, by the Greeks of Ashiklar and Semitlü. Unfortunately, many other Moslem villages in the district have suffered the same fate, and it would seem that the Christians are the guilty parties in all cases.

Mr. Dussi has already brought this to the notice of Her Majesty's Ambassador.

Under these circumstances it is only natural to expect that the Turkish refugees,

finding their villages burned, their gardens devastated, and all their property gone, should be inspired with a desire to revenge themselves on their despoilers.

The Christians undoubtedly exercised a terrorism over the Moslems in the spring and summer for which they have not been called to account, and it would seem that in the acts of retaliation now reported they are only reaping the fruits of their villainy as awarded by the wild justice of revenge. The refugees, without house or home, cattle, or implements of agriculture, have received no assistance whatever from the neighbouring Christian villages, and many of them have probably resorted to plunder and violence as a means of mere subsistance. This will explain in a great measure the outrages which will now be described.

In order to procure satisfactory evidence, we caused it to be intimated to the villagers that we were anxious to hear from the individuals concerned of all acts of robbery and violence which had recently been committed, as well as to receive testimony as to the murders and persons reported missing.

The Tchorbadji or head of the village furnished the following list of persons killed or missing, the original, in Greek, remaining in the hands of Mr. Dussi.

List of Persons reported as killed or missing from the Village of Ashiklar during October 1878.

1. Hadji Strati Setanolo.
2. Athanasi Garo.
3. Stavraki Hadji Janni.
4. Georgaki Basilea.
5. Antonio Katranić.
6. Athanasi Semitlioti.
7. Nicolatchi Katcheri.
8. Georgi Siro.
9. Dimitraki Laloutchi.
10. Vivas Athanasi.
11. Theodoraki Tringa.

(Signed by the Tchorbadji Anastasi Georgaki.)

A summary of the evidence taken in these and other cases follows.

1. *Hadji Strati.*—Killed 30th September. Body and clothes found by brother on same day between Tatarlü and Castanchol, in district of Sharkeui. No further evidence.

2. *Athanasi Garo.*—Alexandri Janni, a shepherd of Ashiklar, was with above-named on mountain of Bos Tèpé, which lies to the west of road from Semitlü to Aivadjik, on 2nd October. Ten Turks armed with guns, pistols, and sabres seized them, bound them, and carried them into the mountains. They decapitated Athanasi Garo, and cut his body in pieces, then turned to him. He received a severe cut from a knife or yatagban on the head, but ran off, and as he fled Redjeb Oghlu Osman, a Turk of the village of Rouspeli (burned four months ago), fired at him, and a slug lodged in his back.

The band carried off 1,750 piastres of good money (about 16*l.*), also his horse, which was loaded with four bushels of barley, and his clothes.

He had been to Rodosto and has been examined by the authorities.

Redjeb Oghlu Osman has been arrested and is in prison at Rodosto. The body of Athanasi Garo has been interred in the Greek cemetery at Rodosto.

3. *Stavraki Hadji Janni, Katsera Janni,* brothers, disappeared about 1st October, and supposed to have been murdered. Their flock of sheep was recovered at Rodosto, but their is no evidence that they have been killed, but a rumour that their bodies have been found at Georgendéré, three hours from Rodosto, in the direction of Haircholü, near Tchitmé Tchiftlik. One of the accused persons—a Turk—name unknown, has been arrested; and the wife of Stavraki has been to Rodosto to make her deposition before the authorities.

4. *Georgaki Basilea.*—Shepherd of Ashiklar, last seen alive on 5th October by his sister on his way home from the sheep farm of Kurali, in the district of Malgara. His handkerchief and cummerbund (long waistband, *kushak* in Turkish, *zonari* in Greek) were found at Bos Tèpé about the 10th, but his body has not been discovered.

About a fortnight since, his son was beaten, wounded, and robbed near the village of Kelishlü, in the district of Rodosto. The name of the son is Kostendak.

5. *Antonio Katranić.*—Shepherd of Ashiklar, disappeared about the 3rd October. Body found decapitated on the Bos Tèpé mountain on the 11th by his brother Janni Katranić, also a shepherd of Ashiklar.

6. *Athanasi Semitlioti.*—Greek shepherd of Ashiklar, last seen by his aunt about the 3rd October. An individual named Angelaki Arkoudi told the aunt that he had seen his body in Kai-déré, one hour from Rodosto on the road to Muratli, about the 11th October. No complaint has been made to the authorities. When I asked why no steps had been taken, it was stated that the man was a batchelor, and it was no one's business to find out what had become of him.

7. *Nikolaki Katcheri and* 8, *Georgi Siro.*—Two shepherds of Ashiklar, Greeks, with 1,200 sheep belonging to them, and a master shepherd named Georgios Balutolu, disappeared from the pasturage of Kivali in the district of Malgara, about the 8th October. The head shepherd has been in the direction of Gallipoli to look for them, and a letter was received from him while I was at Ashiklar, to say that the sheep had been found near Bunar, four hours from Sharkeui, in the direction of Gallipoli. The letter did not state whether any were missing. The two shepherds have not been found. As the sheep were partly their property, it may be presumed that they have not simply run away. The matter has been reported.

9. *Dimitraki Laloutchi.*—Wife states that he was last seen with an ass near Besik Tèpé, in the direction of Tuzeros, about the 3rd October; that his son has searched for him, but that no tidings have been received.

10. *Vivas (or Rigas) Athanasi.*—Greek shepherd of Ashiklar, missing. It is reported that he has been killed, but, being a bachelor, it seems no one will be at the trouble of making inquiries, and no evidence is forthcoming as to date or place.

Said to have occurred at Hodjadin on the 6th October.

11. *Theodoraki Tringa.*—A shepherd belonging to the farm of Ahmediklü, said to have been killed about the 11th October. No witnesses forthcoming.

In addition to the foregoing evidence which relates to the names on the Tchorbadji's list, I took the following depositions:—

Georgi Angelaki, Greek shepherd of Ashiklar. His sister Maria states that he has been missing for fifteen days, and that she and a certain Timiano found his body at Tatarlu, in the district of Sharkeui, on the 9th October. No report was made to the authorities.

Constantin Guliamu, Dimitri Semitlioti, Nikola Karioni, all shepherds of Ashiklar, with 160 sheep belonging to Athanasi Kluri of the same village, have disappeared, but how, when, and where there is no evidence to show.

Anton Zaferaki, Greek shepherd of Ashiklar, missing for a week. On 10th October his body was found cut to pieces on Bos Tèpé. No evidence as to facts.

Cases of Robbery.

Agnignoste Janni, shepherd of Ashiklar, aged 45, states:—Was at Bos Tèpé with an ass on the 1st October with three persons with horses loaded with wheat. Passing a bridge we perceived a dozen persons hid in the bed of the rivulet and in the scrub. They fell on us, beat us, wounded me in the arm with a knife, took the horses and wheat, robbed me of 11 piastres, and also took our clothes. I do not know their names; we made no complaint to the authorities. The Governor caused an inquiry to be made, and two persons were arrested, one of whom was the man who fired on my brother Alexandri Janni, and the other a Turk of Kelishlü. These men are now in prison at Rodosto.

Toderaki Surgun, a shepherd of the village of Ashiklar, states:—

I was coming home from Karadjugul, half-way between Haircholü and Malgara, on horseback, with one companion on a horse and one on an ass.

Near Bos Tèpé we were attacked by nine Turks, who bound our arms, beat us so severely, that we were in the hands of a doctor in bed for twelve days; took 340 piastres (3*l.*), our cloaks, our horses, and our bags. I recognized one of the party as an inhabitant of Kelishlü, but do not know his name. I made a complaint to the Governor, who ordered the arrest of two persons, whom I have identified as among those who attacked us. They were lodged in the prison at Rodosto.

Triandaphilo Malatcho, shepherd of Ashiklar, states:—

On the 8th October I was, with two other shepherds, with our flocks on the road to Rodosto. I was on horseback, the others on foot. Between Gumuslü and Hadji-keui, in the district of Rodosto, we were attacked by two Turks armed with guns, pistols, and sabres. They drew their swords and made cuts at me, which I parried with a staff. The staff was cut through, and I received a wound on the top of my head. They took my horse, my clothes, 25 silver medjidiés, and 4 lire in gold (8*l.* 6*s.*). The shepherds with me fled. The Turks went off into the forest. I do not know who they were, but suppose

them to be refugees. I have made no complaint to the authorities, and no arrests have been made.

Athanasi Katramié, shepherd of Ashiklar, deposes:—

On the 5th October I was with six persons at the sheep farm of Hadjilu, near Deli-Petri and Hairebdin. On Sunday night, the 6th, five persons from the Tatar village of Tmerieh, distant one hour, stole fifty of our sheep. One of the robbers was recognized by the shepherds as a certain Salaniet Baba. On the following day I started, with the Hodja of Mustafa Bey (who is a landowner at Hadjilar) for Rodosto, to make a complaint. When we were near Mirzakeui, between Hadjilar and Parmaksous, we heard someone call to the Hodja to stop, on the pretext that he had a letter for him from Mussafa Bey. As the man approached he presented a gun at me, and demanded my money; and at the same time two other brigands arrived. They took from me 3½ lire, 2 gold imperials, 12 silver medjidiés, and 10½ silver roubles (about 9*l.*). The Hodja and I, on the departure of the robbers, continued our journey to Rodosto, he having recognized one of them as being a certain Turk named Bosnak-Oghlu, of the village of Susus-Moselim. On arriving at Rodosto they made their deposition at the konak, but as yet no one has been arrested.

The following persons are stated to have been wounded by brigands at Kan-dèré, near Bos-Tèpé, but no confirmatory evidence could be procured, viz.: Costanti Pascal, Georgi Timo, and Athanasi Anton.

Several other persons are reported to have suffered at the hands of brigands, but no further evidence was presented.

As I passed a night at Ashiklar and caused the object of my visit to be made known, it is improbable that any other cases of gravity have occurred.

We had two interviews with the Yuz-bashi, a native of Aleppo, who apparently tried to do his duty as well as he could. He said, and I think it was admitted by the principal villagers, that no complaints had been made to him, and that he was not aware that any one had been killed in the limits of his command.

I read him the list of names, and he pointed out that all these people had been killed in other districts. I represented to him that they were natives of this village, and that it was his duty to bring to the notice of the authorities that they were missing, which he promised to do.

He says that all his men—about eighty-five—are employed on patrols and pickets, and that he gives escorts to those who ask whenever he can, but that the demands of the villagers are so great that it would take a regiment to satisfy them. He asked the village authorities to assist him by detailing some men to take the guards in the village and enable him to send more men on patrol and escort duty, but they refused to aid him in any way.

As far as I could gather, the villagers seemed to think that the Government was bound to find an escort for every one who went out for a walk, and they had no idea of aiding in their own protection or assisting in the preservation of order. They are prosperous, selfish, and cowardly; and as one looked across the valley on the ruins of Rouspeli, it was only natural to conclude that their apprehensions were based on the fear of retribution.

From Ashiklar we went on to the Greek village of Semitlü, one hour to the north, with a population of about 1,700. A party of seventeen soldiers have been stationed here since the 3rd October. No Russian troops have been here.

Fotaki Papazot, and two other members of the village Council, appeared to give information. They state that a bad feeling existed between the villages of Semitlü and Rouspeli before the war, and that the inhabitants of the latter used to beat their villagers. Rouspeli was burned in the month of April.

They state that it is not safe to go outside the village, but we observed people at work in all directions, nevertheless.

During the last eleven days they state that four persons of the village have disappeared.

The body of Aryaki Benlis, an inhabitant of the village, was found near the village on the 11th October. His head was cut off. The names of the murderers are not known, but two inhabitants of Rouspeli are suspected, viz., Ahmet-Tchaoush and Kel-Suleiman. The latter was arrested this morning by the orders of the Yuz-bashi at Ashiklar.

The Kadi (judge or magistrate) of Ainadjik has taken depositions in the matter, and Tatar Mustafa, a zaptieh (policeman) of Rodosto, said that he would go in search of the accused.

Anton Thau-oghlu, a shepherd of Simitlü, tending his brother's sheep at Yasir,

three hours from here, disappeared on the 8th October, and no trace of him has since been found. No report was made to the authorities.

Athanasi Strati, a shepherd of Semitlü, set out for the farm of Kula-oushi on the 6th October. No news or trace of him has since been found, and it is believed that he has been murdered. No report has been made to the authorities.

Costandi Beleher, a shepherd of Semitlü, left the village on the 13th, and has not since been heard of. Is supposed to have been murdered. No report made to the authorities.

Dimitraki Costandi, a native of Semitlü, states:—

I was returning with two persons from another village with a horse laden with three bushels of barley and a skin of cheese, from Mustaf-fakli, near Ainedjik. Near the bridge of Kadijik we were seized by two Turks, who bound our hands and carried us into the forest, where we were tied to trees, while the horse and our effects were carried off. I freed myself by struggling, and my companions also got loose. One of the persons who robbed us is named Kadir, and belongs to the village of Kelishlü. There were at that time (20th September) two zaptiehs (police) from Rodosto at Ashiklar engaged in another investigation. We were summoned to Ashiklar, and made our statement.

I went with the two zaptiehs to Kilishlü, and we found the horse in Kadir's stable. Kadir was arrested and brought to Rodosto, where the zaptiehs gave evidence before the Court that the horse had been found in Kadir's stable. The horse was restored to me on my making a declaration on oath. Kadir denied the affair, but is kept in prison.

The barley was not found.

Yanak Georgi, a shepherd of Semitlü, states:—"I have usually about 1,000 sheep. On the 20th September my flocks were at Musratfakli, when twenty sheep were carried off by persons unknown. Some remains of sheep which had been killed were discovered. I made no complaint to the authorities." I reprimanded the villagers for having neglected to bring these crimes to the notice of the authorities, and told them that they could not expect redress or sympathy if they omitted to inform the Government officials of their grievances.

We next went on by Bos-Tèpé, the scene of several of the outrages, to Ainadjik. On the road we met three patrols, each of two soldiers, who reported all quiet. Ainadjik is a Moslem village on the road from Rodosto to Malgara four-and-a-half hours from the former town.

On the 3rd October, when the Turkish troops were marching through to Malgara, a Yuz-bashi (captain) was sent back to inform the Kadi that there were five corpses lying on the road between Malgara and Fundakli. Persons were sent to bury them; they had been dead a long time, and were hardly recognizable. One was a Moslem Albanian, and the other four appeared to be Moslems. It is not known who they were, nor to what village they belonged. The mode and authors of their death are also unknown.

The neighbouring village of Ashlar was burned by the Christians during the Russian occupation.

At Ainadjik we met a Commission composed of a Major of the 2nd Corps, Hussein Effendi, and Georgaki Effendi, members of Council at Rodosto.

They had been sent by the Governor to inquire into a list of outrages in the villages, and to establish order. I inquired whether they had authority to punish on the spot, and heard that they had not.

Mr. Dussi thought the choice of a Moslem and a Greek from the local authorities showed a desire on the part of the Governor to have an impartial inquiry.

The Commission informed us that there were troops in all the villages, and patrols throughout the country. Ainadjik was reported quiet.

We then returned to Rodosto, meeting two convoys of provisions for the troops towards Malgara on the road.

The acts of violence which have recently occurred at Rodosto are as follows: —

Before the departure of the Russians, one of their soldiers was waylaid on the Adrianople road and severely wounded by persons unknown. He lies in hospital at Rodosto.

A train of arabas laden with grain was in charge of Greeks. They saw some Turks approaching, and in fear of an attack they fled, abandoning their charge, and made a complaint at Rodosto.

Soldiers were at once sent to the spot. The arabas had been driven off, but most of the property was recovered and handed over to the owners. The guilty parties were arrested and await their trial in prison at Rodosto.

A granary was broken into at night, and corn carried off. Almost all was found by

the zaptiehs in a Moslem village, and restored to the owner. The persons in whose possession it was found have been lodged in prison at Rodosto.

I have now completed the catalogue of crimes committed in the Rodosto district since the reoccupation of the country by the Ottoman authorities.

Excepting 5 Moslems killed and 1 Russian soldier wounded, during the Russian occupation, the list amounts to 7 killed, 14 missing, 14 wounded, and 7 robberies, generally on the highway, the victims in all cases being Greek Christians, and the criminals Moslems, chiefly refugees. In most cases where the authorities have been informed the persons suspected have been arrested; but in many instances no complaint has been made. Several of the localities where persons were killed or last seen are out of the jurisdiction of Rodosto.

Parties of soldiers are now stationed in most of the villages. The roads are patrolled. Escorts are given to shepherds, and a Commission is engaged in inquiring into the state of affairs.

It should be borne in mind that, on the approach of the Russians, the Christians menaced and ill-treated the Moslems; that many Moslem villages were deserted, the inhabitants taking refuge in the large towns, and chiefly in Constantinople; while many of the abandoned villages were plundered and burned by the Christians, as reported already by Mr. Dussi: that the Moslem refugees are now returning, to find their houses in ruins, and their property carried off or destroyed.

These unfortunate persons, having neither dwellings, implements, cattle, or corn, and often not even means of subsistence, are driven to desperate acts of violence—partly from want, partly for revenge—and many seem to have adopted a life of brigandage.

There are two ways of remedying this state of affairs. The first is to remove the cause—the poverty and desolation of the repatriated Moslem refugees. For this the Porte has no funds at its disposal, and, unless the miserable plight of these unfortunates excites the compassion of the charitable in England and other countries, little will be done for them; and during the ensuing winter many must perish; and meanwhile much crime will prevail. The other method is simple repression. Even with the most energetic action on the part of the authorities, repressive measures will hardly suffice to keep down crimes which spring from causes so potent as want and revenge; the more so as they receive no aid whatever from the Christian population.

Reviewing the whole circumstances, I am opinion that the Governor of Rodosto has done all that lies in his power to guard against further acts of violence, and to arrest the perpetrators. The judicial procedure appears, however, to be unjustifiably slow. Prompt and severe punishment would go far to check excesses, and I ventured to suggest to the Governor and to Selami Pasha that it would be well to make an immediate example in well-established cases. The number of prisoners now awaiting trial is considerable, and the punishments are said to be lenient, while the present is a time for prompt and severe measures.

In conclusion, I beg to express my great satisfaction at the very able manner in which Mr. Dussi, Her Britannic Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rodosto, assisted in the inquiry, and at the tact and impartiality which have gained for him the confidence of both Moslems and Christians in a very trying period.

Were it not that Mr. Dussi very judicionsly abstains from any intervention with the local authorities without express direction, I should have deemed it desirable to make a joint Report; but it appeared to me that it might prove embarrassing to him to have to express decided opinions, and I therefore abstained from asking him to undertake the responsibility, although I am convinced that his knowledge of affairs in the district render him specially capable of giving a sound opinion.

I beg again to observe that the Greek Bishop desires that his communications should be regarded as strictly confidential, and, I may add, that they appear to be exaggerated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH.

No. 10.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1301.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, in original, two petitions which have been placed in my hands by two Bulgarian gentlemen, styling themselves the "Delegates of the Bulgarian nation," and which contain a protest against the settlement made by the Treaty of Berlin, which separates Eastern Roumelia, Macedonia, and Thrace from the tributary province of Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 10.

Petition.

Excellence,

LE Traité de San Stéfano était conclu et le peuple Bulgare dont les espérances légitimes étaient enfin réalisées, allait se consacrer au développement des nouvelles institutions dont il était doté, lorsque le Congrès de Berlin s'est réuni.

Confiant dans la haute sagesse et les sentiments Chrétiens des hommes éminents qui siégeaient dans cet aréopage Européen, les Bulgares ont cru superflu de présenter leurs désirs devant la réunion qui devait donner la sanction de l'Europe aux résultats acquis par la guerre et consentis par la Turquie à San Stéfano.

Ils croyaient que leurs souffrances étaient trop connues; les massacres de Batack et de Péroucheaza, les cris de détresse des victimes d'Eski-Zagra et des veuves de Carlovo étaient trop récents pour qu'il fut nécessaire d'avoir un interprète autorisé de présenter leurs besoins et leurs vœux devant l'auguste Assemblée.

Le Congrès de Berlin s'est terminé et les Bulgares, étonnés de l'injustice avec laquelle ils ont été traités, se trouvent forcés d'élever la voix pour exprimer la profonde douleur que les résultats du Congrès leur ont causé.

Ce n'est pas à nous d'examiner les motifs que les Puissances ont pu avoir pour stipuler les changements apportés au Traité de San Stéfano.

Mais l'injustice qui nous est faite par ces changements est trop grande, les dangers dont il menacent la tranquillité de l'Orient et la paix de l'Europe trop réels, pour qu'il ne nous soit permis de présenter les objections et d'exposer les vœux qu'ils suggèrent à un peuple malheureux.

Le Traité de Berlin divise la Bulgarie en trois parties qu'il soumet à des régimes différents, et par ce fait notre morcellement est consacré.

Les Bulgares qui pendant les longs siècles de leur esclavage ont eu au moins la consolation d'être unis, ne peuvent nullement être satisfaits d'un état de choses qui donne à une partie de leur nation une liberté partielle au prix de leur unité, laquelle, par suite de la nouvelle situation créée en Orient, devient un rêve du passé.

Unis dans les souffrances les Bulgares veulent être unis aussi dans la liberté, leur aspiration vers l'unité ne pourra être entravée par aucun obstacle. Les entraves que le Congrès met à leur unité seront une cause de troubles permanents, qui ne pourront être appaisés que par la réalisation des clauses du Traité de San Stéfano, répondant aux désirs séculaires du peuple Bulgare.

Le danger que nous venons d'indiquer est imminent, parce que quicouque connaît la disposition des esprits en Bulgarie ne peut pas concevoir qu'une grande partie du peuple Bulgare, après avoir joui de la liberté pendant l'occupation des Russes, et participé à la vie politique indépendante, puisse se soumettre volontairement au nouvel état de choses créé par le Traité de Berlin, et d'après lequel ils sont de nouveau soumis à l'arbitraire d'un Gouvernement haï.

Le droit concédé au Sultan de mettre sur les frontières de la Roumélie Orientale des garnisons Turques sera une source de collisions fréquentes entre les soldats Turcs et la population Bulgare de la Principauté et de la province autonome.

Ces collisions seront beaucoup plus violentes et plus durables que les insurrections qui ont eu lieu jusqu'à présent.

Le fanatisme des Turcs, sur-excité par les revers de la guerre, donnera lieu journellement à des conflits entre la population Turque et la population Chrétienne, et ces conflits prendront facilement les dimensions d'une guerre d'extermination.

Les Bulgares qui jusqu'à présent, étant désarmés, se voyaient forcés de se

soumettre devant les forces Turques, répondront aujourd'hui à la violence par la violence, comptant sur le soutien de la milice nationale qui, issue du peuple, fera toujours cause commune avec lui.

Les troubles fréquents qui surgiront infailliblement dans la Thrace et la Macédoine auront leur contre-coup naturel dans la Bulgarie du nord et rendront la paix de l'Orient très-problématique.

Les scènes sanglantes de l'année passée qui ont émues l'Europe entière au lieu d'être évitées à l'avenir se répéteront avec une violence plus effrayante encore, et les Bulgares, qui espéraient passer de l'esclavage à la liberté sans traverser une époque d'insurrection, voient avec tristesse qu'ils ne pourront arriver à leur unité nationale que par des moyens violents.

Tous ces dangers résultent de ce que la situation créée par le Traité de Berlin est tout-à-fait artificielle; or, l'Europe, qui à déjà fait de pareils essais, devrait être édifiée sur leur validité et leur durée.

L'unité de la Bulgarie devait être conservée d'autant plus que les contrées englobées dans les limites assignées à la Principauté Bulgare par le Traité de San Stéfano sont habitées depuis des temps très-reculés par des Bulgares. Ceux qui prétendent que la Bulgarie du Traité de San Stéfano est une mythe inventé depuis peu d'années, nous les prierons de se donner la peine de lire au moins les lignes suivantes d'un historien très-connu du douzième siècle, qui a eu l'occasion d'étudier sur place les rapports ethnographiques de la Péninsule des Balcans:—"Bulgarorum gens inculta" (dit Guillaume de Tyr) "a tractu septentrionali egressa, a Danubio usque ad urbem regiam et iterum ab eodem flumine ad mare Adriaticum universas occupaverat regiones: ita ut confusis provinciarum nominibus et terminis, totus iste tractus, qui in longitudine habere dicitur iter dierum triginta, in latitudine vero decem, vel amplus, Bulgaria dicatur: miseris græcis ignorantibus quod hoc ipsum nomen eorum protestetur ignominiam." (Villelmi Tyrens, l. II., c. IV.)

Ces paroles n'ont pas besoin de commentaires; nous ferons seulement remarquer, qu'étant écrites au douzième siècle, époque pendant laquelle les Bulgares se trouvaient sous la domination de Byzance, elle ne se rapportent qu'à l'extension ethnographique de notre race.

La situation économique créée par le Traité de Berlin n'est pas plus satisfaisante et présente des inconvénients qui doivent être pris en sérieuse considération.

Les cercles économiques ne se créent pas arbitrairement; la nature elle même pose des limites et des conditions nécessaires à une situation économique supportable. Des contrées qui par leur situation géographique et leurs productions doivent être encadrées dans les frontières du même Etat pour pouvoir se développer économiquement, ne peuvent pas être séparées sans qu'il en résulte dans l'économie du pays une perturbation générale.

Les populations placées dans de telles conditions sont amenées, par la force des choses, à se soulever pour renverser les barrières qui mettent des obstacles à leur développement matériel,

La Bulgarie du Nord perd avec la Dobroudja la province la plus productive sous le rapport de l'élève du bétail; avec Pirot, Vranja et leurs environs la partie la plus industrielle lui est enlevée.

Les entraves que la ligne des garnisons Turques apportera à la liberté et à la sécurité des communications, ne contribuera guère au développement du commerce intérieur.

En outre, la Bulgarie Orientale est divisée en deux parties, qui sont deux fractions inséparables d'un entier.

Un lien très-étroit existe entre la population nord et sud du Balcan; la contrée montagneuse du nord, qui est très-peuplée et dont la population, à cause de l'improductivité du sol, est forcée de se consacrer exclusivement à l'industrie, ne peut pas se passer des produits agricoles des parties méridionales, d'où elle tire journellement toutes les denrées nécessaires à son alimentation.

Les habitants du midi qui se vouent à l'agriculture, ont bésoin d'échanger leurs produits contre les produits industriels et le bétail élevé par les montagnards. Philippopoli et Slimnia—ces entrepôts des marchandises Anglaises et Françaises—perdent tous leurs débouchés dans la province au nord du Balcan, dont les consommateurs seront obligés de satisfaire leurs besoins par des produits locaux, ou de chercher de nouveaux marchés.

La séparation qui produit une diminution des ressources produit en même temps une augmentation des dépenses.

La Bulgarie limitée au Balcan, outre les dépenses d'une administration plénière qu'elle aura à supporter, sera grevée du tribut et d'une partie considérable de la dette Turque.

Privée de ces plus riches provinces de deux côtés des Balcans elle ne manquera pas de succomber sous ce lourd fardeau.

Le Congrès, tout en se préoccupant d'améliorer le sort des Chrétiens, fait la plus grande injustice aux Bulgares de la Roumélie et de la Macédoine; les deux provinces qui ont le plus souffert.

La Roumélie habitée par l'élément le plus développé du peuple Bulgare, et par cela même la plus martyrisée, méritait un sort meilleur que ne lui a assigné le Traité de Berlin.

Dans aucun cas elle ne devait pas être laissée en dehors de la Principauté. Faisant partie de cette dernière elle aurait considérablement contribué à fournir les cadres d'une administration intelligente, et former ainsi le noyau d'un Etat progressif.

La Macédoine, ce berceau du peuple Bulgare, est aussi injustement séparée de la Bulgarie, et pour comble d'injustice laissée sous la complète domination du Gouvernement Turc. La promesse que les Turcs auront à appliquer en Macédoine la charte octroyée aux habitants de l'Ile de Crète en 1868, ne laisse qu'un faible espoir aux Macédoniens de voir améliorer leur sort. Après les nombreux exemples que le Gouvernement Turc nous a donné de l'exactitude avec laquelle il remplit ses promesses les plus solennelles, peut-on sérieusement espérer que cette fois il manquerait à sa tradition?

La séparation de la Macédoine, si funeste pour la population, a été décidée sous prétexte de protéger l'élément Grec contre une prétendue absorption dans l'élément Bulgare.

On ne pourrait s'imaginer une décision plus injuste. On a préféré laisser gémir sous la domination des Turcs 1,500,000 de Bulgares dans le seul but de préserver, d'une absorption imaginaire, une centaine de villages peuplés de Grecs, et situés exclusivement sur la frontière sud-est de la Macédoine.

Nous pensons que cette mesure ne protége pas même les intérêts bien entendus de la minorité Grecque. Englobée dans la Principauté elle aurait bénéficié des avantages d'un Gouvernement Constitutionnel, qui aurait assuré à tous les sujets des droits égaux devant les lois du pays, tandis que sous la domination Turque les Grecs sont condamnés à rester indéfiniment des méprisables giaours.

Enfin, si les garanties que le régime Bulgare aurait accordé aux Grecs pour la conservation de leur nationalité n'auraient pas paru suffisantes au Congrès de Berlin, on aurait pu facilement laisser ces villages en dehors des frontières de la Bulgarie.

La Macédoine mérite la sollicitude de l'Europe sous un autre point de vue; dans beaucoup de contrées de cette province les Beys sont les propriétaires exclusifs de toutes les terres, tandis que la population Chrétienne est réduite à l'état de servage.

Cette institution, condamnée par tout le monde civilisé, est encore en pleine vigueur dans cette province.

Les Bulgares qui ne trouvent aucune protection devant les autorités Turques sont journellement dépouillés de leurs propriétés par les Beys tout puissants.

Ces spoliations, le seul titre des Turcs à la propriété, se sont produits dans des proportions si grandes que la population Chrétienne est reduite à l'état de prolétaires.

Voilà une situation digne de toute la sollicitude de l'Europe civilisée! L'amélioration du sort de tant d'êtres misérables aurait été pour les hommes éminents qui ont siégé au Congrès de Berlin un de leurs titres les plus purs à la gloire et à l'ineffaçable reconnaissance des Chrétiens de la Macédoine.

Les habitants de la Thrace et de la Macédoine, qui méritaient à tant de titres sinon l'attention au moins la pitié de l'Europe, croyaient que l'ère de l'esclavage et des souffrances était terminée et que des jours meilleurs allaient venir pour eux.

Au lieu de cela les habitants des Sandjaks de Philippopoli, de Slimnia, et d'Andrinople qui, sur les décombres fumants de 300 villes et villages déplorent plus de 60,000 victimes égorgées, pendues, et mortes dans les enchots et l'exil, et les Bulgares de la Macédoine où aujourd'hui même de pareilles scènes se répètent, voient avec horreur qu'ils vont être replacés sous le Gouvernement qui est responsable de tous leurs malheurs.

Ils se demandent, avec une juste préoccupation, qu'elles seraient les garanties de l'application des réformes décrétées par le Traité de Berlin dans le cas même où les

membres de la Commission, qui surveillera l'organisation de ces provinces, puissent se mettre d'accord sur l'application des mesures qui seront élaborées.

On ne peut pas douter que la Porte aura pour tâche de donner la prépondérance au petit nombre de Musulmans qui restent dans ces provinces; d'autres influences seront peut être exercées en faveur des Grecs, mais les Bulgares, qui ont une majorité écrasante dans la Roumélie et la Macédoine, ne pourront pas regarder avec indifférence ces essais d'anéantir leur nationalité.

D'ailleurs, n'est-ce pas ce favoritisme qui a amené en Orient l'état de choses que l'Europe connaît? N'est-ce pas [contre] ce favoritisme que l'Europe a cherché un remède?

Qu'importe que cela soit une autre minorité qui sera favorisée! Le mal ne fait que changer de forme, mais la racine reste. Le nouveau favoritisme sera encore le germe fécond de troubles et de bouleversements interminables.

Une population qui pendant vingt ans, seule et sans appui, a soutenu une lutte acharnée pour se soustraire à la domination ecclésiastique du Patriarchat Grec, précisément parce que cette domination n'était que l'acheminement vers la domination politique, que l'infime minorité de Grecs rêvait pour ce pays, ne pourra dans aucun cas accepter un ordre de choses qui vise à préparer son effacement et son extinction complète.

Les Bulgares ne désirent pas opprimer aucune autre nationalité qui se trouverait dans leur patrie, et ils donneront pleine liberté à tous de se développer.

Mais aussi ils essayeront tous les moyens à leur disposition avant de se soumettre à une minorité et à subir un arrêt qui préparera lentement leur mort nationale et politique, et cela dans le centre le plus pur et le plus ancien de leur nationalité.

En soumettant ces considérations à votre Excellence nous vous prions de vouloir bien prêter votre bienveillante attention aux éléments de non stabilité de la nouvelle situation, qu'on crée à la Bulgarie.

Cette situation ne manquera pas à amener de nouvelles calamités sur notre malheureuse patrie, déjà tant éprouvée; la responsabilité pour les torrents de sang qui pourront couler dans un avenir très-prochain ne retombera pas sur nous, ayant porté à la connaissance de l'Europe les dangers qui menacent la tranquillité de l'Orient.

Nous avons, &c.
(Suivent les signatures.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 10.

Petition.

Excellence,

LE peuple Bulgare, plié pendant cinq siècles sous le joug Turc, a enduré de la part de la race dominante des souffrances et des iniquités impossible à décrire: le Bulgare n'était maître ni de sa vie, ni de son bien; sa vie, sa famille, son bien appartenaient aux Aghas, et il avait beau travailler jour et nuit, lui et les siens, il n'en continuait pas moins à croupir dans la misère, car des fruits de son travail c'est l'Agha qui en profitait, et il l'accablait, en retour, de coups et d'outrages de toute sorte.

Voilà de quelle vie les Bulgares ont vécu sous la domination séculaire de la race Ottomane jusqu'à l'année 1878, année bénie entre toutes, qui mit fin au long martyre de tout un peuple.

Le Traité de San Stéfano inaugura enfin l'ère de la liberté pour les Bulgares, et ceux-ci remerciant Dieu de ce bien si longtemps attendu, allaient s'en montrer dignes en l'employant au développement pacifique de leur pays, au progrès de l'industrie et de la civilisation.

Helas! ils étaient à peine entrés dans cette voie, que le Congrès de Berlin les foudroya en décidant le morcellement de leur patrie en tronçons; l'un devenant libre mais restant tributaire, l'autre jouissant seulement d'une autonomie administrative, et le troisième continuant à rester assujetti à la Turquie.

Ces résolutions provoquèrent parmi les Bulgares un sentiment de stupeur d'autant plus grand qu'ils étaient en droit d'attendre du Congrès de Berlin des décisions plus équitables et plus humaines, le sachant composé des hommes d'État Européens les plus éminents; des hommes qui ne pouvaient refuser leur protection aux intérêts de l'humanité et de la civilisation. Malheureusement, au lieu d'assurer des droits d'hommes aux Bulgares, l'aréopage Européen, touché, nous ne savons par quelles

considérations, en a, au contraire, condamné la majorité à l'ancien esclavage; il a morcelé cet infortuné pays pour en retenir violemment des tronçons sous la main implacable de ces cruels fonctionnaires Turcs qui l'ont tant de fois saigné à blanc.

Pour nous, habitants du district de Djoumaïa, cette décision est particulièrment douloureuse, car elle nous sépare de nos frères du Sandjak de Sofia, avec lesquels nous vivons de mémoire d'hommes sous les mêmes autorités, pour nous réunir à une autre portion de territoire dans le but évident de nous maintenir sous le joug des Turcs avec lesquels nous ne pouvons désormais plus vivre.

Nous cherchons en vain par quelle raison le district de Djoumaïa serait détaché du Sandjakat de Sofia, alors que la nature elle-même en a fait une partie inséparable. En effet, la chaîne des montagnes qui s'étendent de l'est au sud, et à l'ouest du district de Djoumaïa en constitue la limite naturelle, laquelle adoptée pour limite de la Principauté, servirait de plus sûre barrière contre les collisions entre des Turcs de la Macédoine et des Bulgares de la Bulgarie libre. La ligne de démarcation adoptée par le Congrès, et passant près de l'embouchure de la Ryla dans le Karasou créerait, au contraire, une frontière complétement ouverte; elle ne pourrait manquer de devenir le théâtre de fréquentes rixes et des conflits sanglants qui ne rendront jamais la paix à cette contrée, et qui ne cesseront de donner des soucis à la diplomatie.

Si le Congrès avait voulu tenir compte de la population du district, il aurait encore plus difficilement pu se décider à l'abandonner aux Turcs; car sur une population de 29,000 âmes ceux-ci ne comptent que pour 4,500, et sur 37 villages, 33 sont Bulgares et 4 seulement sont Turcs.

En conséquence les Bulgares du district de Djoumaïa ne peuvent, après avoir goûté les bienfaits de la liberté et vécu comme il convient à des hommes, pendant l'occupation Russe, se soumettre de nouveau à l'arbitraire des Turcs, courber de nouveau la tête sous leur yatagan. Leurs méfaits sont encore tellement présents à notre mémoire comme s'ils étaient d'aujourd'hui. Nous voyons encore étalés devant nous les cadavres sans nombre de nos pères et mères, de nos frères et sœurs, de nos épouses, de nos enfants impitoyablement massacrés, l'année passée et au commencement de la présente, par les mains des Turcs sanguinaires; encore aujourd'hui nous reculons d'horreur en entrant au bazar où l'un de nos concitoyens les plus considérés fut innocemment pendu sans jugement; encore aujourd'hui nos oreilles retentissent du sifflement des balles, du cliquetis des sabres, du bruit des haches qui épouvantèrent les paisibles habitants de notre ville lorsque celle-ci fut pillé avec l'autorisation des fonctionnaires Ottomanes; encore aujourd'hui nous entendons les cris déchirants de nos femmes et des nos filles violées et massacrées sans pitié dans nos rues le jour, où la ville fut une dernière fois mise à sac sous les yeux mêmes du Caïmacam, du Cadi et du Muphti. Et puisque nous n'avons pas oublié, et que nous n'oublierons jamais, ces férocités inouïes que votre Excellence nous disent, de grâce, pouvons-nous, de nouveau nous laisser asservir par un Gouvernement qui naguère nous traitait de la sorte? Elle pourra nous répondre que le Sultan s'engage à concéder de larges immunités aux Chrétiens. Oh, nous en avons assez de ses promesses, nous savons que trop bien à quoi nous en tenir sur la valeur des engagements Turcs! Il n'y a que deux ans, le Sultan nous donna par Firman une foule de droits; les abus n'en devinrent que plus nombreux et nos souffrances plus aiguës. Le Sultan alla, pour notre grand malheur, encore plus loin; il octroya une Constitution à son Empire. Dès lors nos souffrances atteignirent le comble des souffrances humaines; les atrocités les plus épouvantables furent précisément commises pendant cette néfaste époque constitutionnelle.

C'est donc au nom de la justice, de l'humanité, et de la civilisation, que nous supplions votre Excellence de ne pas permettre qu'on nous sépare du Sandjak de Sofia, de se souvenir que l'histoire, ce juge impartial, maudira un tel acte, que ses auteurs répondront devant Dieu et les hommes d'une décision dont des milliers de créatures humaines, des femmes et des enfants, seraient les malheureuses victimes. Dans tous les cas soyez persuadé, Excellence, que nous ne saurions plus souffrir qu'on nous traite comme un vil troupeau après avoir pendant sept mois joui des bienfaits de la liberté. L'Europe, puissante, pourra employer ses baïonnettes pour exterminer ceux qui ne demandent qu'à vivre en hommes; mais jamais de bon gré nous ne nous soumettrons de nouveau au joug Turc.

Notre sort est dans vos mains; la paix de l'Orient dépend de vos résolutions; nous conjurons, votre Excellence, de ne pas repousser nos supplications.

Veuillez, &c.
(Les habitants du district de Djoumaïa.)

No. 11.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 1302. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch addressed to me by Sir R. Wood with reference to the visit of Hairredin Pasha to Constantinople. The statement of Sir R. Wood that the French Government view with extreme jealousy and suspicion the presence of the Tunisian statesman in the Turkish capital, is confirmed by the somewhat excited language in which my French colleague spoke to me a day or two ago on the subject.

M. Fournier said that the independence of Tunis was a cardinal point in the foreign policy of France, and that she recognized no right whatever of suzerainty on the part of the Sultan over the Regency, which she considered as much an independent State as any European nation. France, he said, did not require Tunis; if she did she might have accepted the proposal which Her Majesty's Government had recently made to her, and which he had himself seen in writing, to take possession of the country. But she would never permit any other State to interfere in the Regency.

If Hairredin Pasha, M. Fournier went on to say, had been brought here with any intention to bring about changes in the political relations of the Regency to Turkey, France would take care to prevent them, and he might tell me that had a Turkish ship-of-war been sent to fetch Hairredin Pasha from Tunis she would have found a French iron-clad between her and the shore.

These energetic declarations were made without any apparent cause, as I had said nothing whatever to provoke a discussion on this subject. I merely replied that I was not aware that the European Powers had officially recognized the complete independence of the Bey of Tunis, or any change in the relations established with their sanction between the Porte and the Regency.

As far as I have yet been able to ascertain I cannot learn that the Sultan, in inviting Hairredin Pasha to Constantinople, had any other object in view than that of obtaining the help and advice of a Mussulman statesman, of whose ability, experience, and integrity His Majesty had been led to form a high opinion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 11.

Sir R. Wood to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Tunis, October* 10, 1878.

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Excellency's despatch of the 24th September, acknowledging the receipt of my despatch of the 9th of the same month; and I beg to convey the expression of my thanks for the information which it has pleased your Excellency to give me with regard to the unusual distinction with which General Khaïreddin has been received on his arrival at Constantinople by His Majesty the Sultan.

I had ventured to state, in reporting the departure of the General, that a few years ago some of the French papers had accused him of having availed himself of his mission to Constantinople in 1871 to come to some understanding with the Porte for superseding the present ruling family of this Regency.

I am now confidentially informed that M. Waddington has asked the Ottoman Ambassador at Paris for explanations with reference to the object for which General Khaïreddin has received His Imperial Majesty's commands to visit him, and the reason of his distinguished reception; adding, that he had instructed the French Representative at the Porte to ask for explicit declarations, and to protest beforehand against any changes that may be contemplated, or any interference with the existing state of things.

In communicating to the Tunisian Minister the steps which M. Waddington has thought proper to take, M. Roustan, the French Chargé d'Affaires, has endeavoured by specious arguments to create alarm. He accuses General Khaïreddin of being an uncompromising adherent of Turkish policy in respect of this country, and of entertaining ambitious designs, in the execution of which he will be supported and encouraged by the Ottoman Government. To prevent their realization, M. Roustan offers the assistance and co-operation of France—mild and veiled terms for protectorate, which expression he could not employ without raising suspicion and frustrating the object which he seeks indirectly to obtain. He expects that by adding to the apprehensions and fears of the Bey, and by rousing his angry feelings, His Highness may, in a moment of great alarm and indignation, throw himself into the arms of France to save himself and family from expulsion and disgrace.

The Tunisian Minister intimated to M. Roustan that whatever might be the nature of General Khaïreddin's designs, the relations between the Porte and Tunis were regulated by the Sultan's Firman of 1871; that up to the present period its conditions have been loyally maintained, and that so long as the Suzerain made no attempt to alter them, there was no necessity whatever to change them. Should, however, the necessity ever arise, it would be then time enough for the Regent to decide the steps it would be expedient to take.

It was in anticipation of the line of conduct which my French colleague would pursue here, and of the nature of the representations he was likely to make to his Government with a view to engage its action in the matter, that I ventured to suggest that the Grand Vizier should address a friendly letter to the Regent, explaining the reasons of the Sultan's commands to the General to repair to Constantinople, and assuring him of His Majesty's high protection and gracious support; and your Excellency will permit me to express my sense of obligation for the readiness with which you have been pleased to communicate my suggestion to His Highness, who has made no difficulty about doing so.

This course appears the more urgent as there is no end to the intrigues that have been set on foot here to increase the misgivings of the Bey and of his Court. I am endeavouring to remove them, but as I have the reputation of being a supporter of Turkish views, my endeavours, unless aided by a frank and amicable explanation on the part of the Porte, may finally fail to have a due effect on the mind of the Regent and on that of his inexperienced Counsellors, who are not always able to fathom the true motives which impel some of the foreign Agents to give advice, tending to weaken or sever the ties between His Highness and his Suzerain.

The Regent has been told that among the dangers in prospect for him was the probable appointment of General Khaïreddin to the Governorship of the adjoining Pashalic of Tripoli, from whence he would incite the Arab tribes to revolt against the authority of His Highness.

As your Excellency may wish to see General Khaïreddin's Essay on Reforms in Mussulman States, I have forwarded a copy under a separate cover.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RICHARD WOOD.

No. 12.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 1305.) [B.B.]

My Lord. *Therapia, October* 22, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1289 of the 19th instant, inclosing copy of a letter I had addressed to the Protestant Vekil, with regard to his statements as to religious liberty under the Greek Government, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship copy of the reply which I have received from M. Matheosian.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 12.

M. Matteosian to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Constantinople, October* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's letter of the 19th instant.

I am sure that your Excellency will not contend that full religious liberty exists where "proselytism" is forbidden. Proselytism is a word which may be applied to

any honourable missionary operations, and consequently a law of the tenor of the First Article of the Greek Constitution cannot secure the full religious liberty Evangelical Christians are anxious to secure in any province that may be annexed to Greece.

As to my statement that schools opened for the benefit of the general population are not permitted unless the Catechism of the Greek Church be taught to the pupils by a Greek priest, your Excellency observes that this is obligatory only on scholars professing the Orthodox faith. This is the very thing of which we complain, because this law applied to a mission school, with the alternative of closing it stops all missionary operations, since parents of the Orthodox Church wishing to send their children to schools of a different denomination are forbidden, and this, I humbly submit is not consistent with full religious liberty.

Your Excellency is told that it is not the fact that the Greek Government obliges a picture of the Lord Jesus Christ or of the Virgin Mary to be exhibited in schools opened for the benefit of general population.

Allow me to say that the experience of Dr. Kolopothakes and others prove the contrary, as I promise to show by sending you details. Still, I shall only be glad if now such proceedings have been discontinued.

As to schools which were closed, it is quite lately a very flourishing female school, under the direction of Mrs. Fluhart, was closed at Athens, because she would neither pay a Greek priest to teach catechism, nor exhibit pictures of the Saviour or of the Virgin Mary.

Permit me to assure your Excellency that the statements in my letter of 24th August were called forth by the actual pressure of circumstances, and from no desire whatever to disparage the reputation of the Greek Government, but simply in order to secure, in case of the annexation of part of Thessaly to Greece, the continuation of the privileges we now enjoy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HAGOP MATTEOSIAN.

No. 13.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1307. Very Confidential.)
Therapia, October 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a private letter to me from Baker Pasha, informing me of his appointment by the Sultan to the command of the lines of Buyuk-Chekmedje Derkos. I had hoped, as your Lordship is aware, that His Majesty would have acted upon a suggestion that I had made to him to send Baker Pasha to Eastern Asia Minor with a sufficient force to maintain order in Armenia, and to control the Kurdish tribes; but the command now given to him is one of great importance, and it appears to me of no small advantage that he should be placed in direct relations with the Sultan.

Your Lordship will observe that Baker Pasha entirely confirms the reports that have reached me, from so many independent and trustworthy sources, as to the condition of the country evacuated by the Russians, concerning which so many exaggerated or unfounded statements have been made by the Russian Government to Europe. He mentions the fact that whilst the Russian cemeteries are entirely undesecrated the Mahommedan mosques and burial grounds have been disgracefully treated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 13.

General Baker Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

Pera, October 22, 1878.

My dear Sir Henry,

I HAVE paid a visit to every part of the Buyuk Chekmedje Derkos line and found it in wretched condition. It is not that the Russians have destroyed the existing misplaced works, but that they were never finished. I have made a long report to the Sultan on all that is necessary. I saw him again yesterday, Khaïreddin acting as interpreter. He went carefully and intelligently into the whole question, and announced his intention of giving me command of the whole line. He also requested that I would come and see him personally every Friday and give him an account of the progress made.

I am to attend a Council at the Seraskeriat to-day to arrange details and to see the Sultan again to-morrow. My only fear is that so much time has been lost that the wet season will arrive before the necessary work for this year can be carried out. The Sultan has thoroughly adopted my idea of concentrating a corps d'armée for manœuvring every year upon the lines and keeping a large permanent garrison. Thus each year they will be strengthened. I will send you a copy of my Report when I have a little time.

I visited many villages along the line—Bulgarian and Mahommedan. The Mahommedan houses and villages have been shamefully treated, almost wrecked. The Bulgarian villages are untouched. I inquired of the Bulgarians themselves whether any disorders had taken place in that neighbourhood, and they assured me that nothing had occurred beyond a theft of some horses. They said that some of their villagers had left with the Russians, determined to settle in Bulgaria. I passed many Russian cemeteries. They were entirely undesecrated. The Mahommedan mosques and cemeteries, on the contrary, have been disgracefully treated.

(Signed) V. BAKER.

No. 14.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1308.)
Therapia, October 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I WAS requested by the Grand Vizier to come to him at his house on the Bosphorus early this morning. My French colleague received a similar invitation. He arrived before me, and I found him already in consultation with Safvet Pasha and the Ministers of Finance and Commerce. His Highness informed me that he had invited M. Fournier and myself to come to him to ask our advice with regard to the measures to be taken for the withdrawal of the "caimé," a paper money, as the fall which is now daily taking place in it threatened the most disastrous consequences. It had already reached 350 piastres to the Turkish lira, and it was feared that if the depreciation continued the bankers would close their shops, and serious riots would take place in the capital. His Highness added that M. Fournier had given his opinion on the subject before I had entered the room, and he would be glad to hear mine.

I replied that I had already, some time ago, expressed my views on the subject to his Highness and to the Minister of Finance, and that they had not changed. There were only two ways, I said, to deal with the "caimé;" either to obtain a loan of a sufficient amount to withdraw it at once, or to take such measures as would restore public confidence, in order not only to prevent its further depreciation, but to raise, as much as possible, its value, by proceeding to its gradual withdrawal. I was convinced that, under present circumstances, it would be impossible for the Porte to place on the European money markets a loan of sufficient amount to effect the first object. It remained, therefore, to restore public confidence. In my opinion this could only be done by appointing a Commission under the Presidency of the Minister of Finance, or of some other high Turkish functionary, of which the two Vice-Presidents should be the Manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, and a Frenchman of corresponding position, and of which the members should be European merchants of known respectability and integrity. This Commission should be charged with the administration of the Customs and collection of the Customs revenues, and should have full powers to appoint and to dismiss all those whom they employed for this service. It should, out of those revenues, apply the sum fixed by the Porte for the weekly purchase of "caimé." It should be independent in its action, and should not be under the control, or liable to the interference, of the Ministry of Finance, or any other Department of the Government. If such a Commission were appointed, and its permanency were assured, the public would be satisfied that the sum destined for the redemption of the "caimé" would be honestly and punctually paid, and confidence would be gradually restored. The Porte had named a Commission, through which it had undertaken to buy up the paper money to the value of 12,000*l.* a week; but that Commission had no independent powers; the European element was not sufficiently represented upon it, and it entirely depended for the

discharge of its functions upon the promises of the Government. Consequently the public had no confidence in it, as it had no confidence in those promises, and the first purchase that it had made of "caimés" had not checked their depreciation.

M. Fournier observed that he had expressed nearly the same views as I had submitted to the Grand Vizier. He had, however, proposed that the administration of the Customs, and the application of the sum for the gradual withdrawal of the caimé should be confided to the Imperial Ottoman Bank. But he preferred, he said, my suggestion of a Commission, as the Imperial Ottoman Bank, being a State establishment, and having considerable monetary transactions with the Government, would not command the same public confidence as a Commission such as I had proposed.

A long discussion ensued, during which the Minister of Finance adhered to his plan of raising a loan of 6,000,000*l.* or 7,000,000*l.*, proposing to offer as a guarantee for it the revenues of the Vilayet of Aidin (Smyrna), the collection of which, he said, should be placed in the hands of agents named by the contractors. M. Fournier and myself insisted that it was not in the power of the Porte to deal with the revenues of this or any other province, as they were already pledged for existing loans. We pointed out that if the Turkish Government were to offer them as a guarantee for a new loan, it would be immediately met by an energetic protest from a large number of its foreign creditors, and the attempt to obtain money would fail, rendering the position of the Porte even more difficult and dangerous than it was at the present moment.

We succeeded at last in persuading the Turkish Ministers that it was impossible to raise, under present circumstances, a loan such as they required, and that the half measures that had been adopted, or proposed, for the gradual withdrawal of the caimé were not calculated to impose confidence, and consequently could not have the effect of increasing the value of the paper money, and of diminishing the public distress.

Safvet Pasha was evidently of our opinion, but the Minister of Finance seemed little disposed to place the administration of the Customs, and especially the power to nominate and dismiss the employés, in the hands of a Commission mainly composed of Europeans. M. Fournier and myself, however, insisted that this was absolutely necessary, and that no Commission composed of Ottoman subjects, mostly Greek bankers, who would be apt to consider their own interests rather than those of the State or the public, would have the slightest chance of restoring confidence.

After we had placed before the Grand Vizier and Minister of Finance a number of arguments in favour of appointing a Commission such as we had suggested, and which it is unnecessary for me to repeat to your Lordship, Safvet Pasha requested us to furnish him with the names of some European merchants, and of persons resident and engaged in business in Constantinople, who, from their reputation for honesty and their knowledge of commercial affairs, could be placed upon it. We accordingly submitted to him those of several gentlemen, Englishmen, Frenchmen, Germans, and Swiss, who appeared to us to fulfil the conditions required. It was suggested by the Ministers themselves that Mr. Foster, the Manager of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, should be the English Vice-President of the Commission, and M. Fournier proposed M. Mercet, the Manager of the Crédit Lyonnais, for the French Vice-President, a proposal which was readily accepted. Safvet Pasha suggested that an Ottoman subject of admitted integrity, and not connected with Galata speculations, should be amongst the members of the Commission. To this M. Fournier and I saw no objection, and M. Allahverdi, an Armenian gentleman of high respectability, was mentioned as a proper person to be named to it.

Safvet Pasha then promised to submit the proposal for the Commission to the Council of Ministers at a meeting summoned for this afternoon to consider the question of the caimé, which was causing great alarm, his Highness said, to the Sultan and to the public in general, and required to be dealt with without delay.

Should the Council agree to the appointment of a Commission mainly composed of the European element such as I have suggested, it appears to me that a great step will be gained; there will, no doubt, be much opposition to it on the part of those who are determined to resist all European interference in the affairs of this country, and of those whose interests will be affected by the transfer of the appointment of employés in the Customs to an independent body. But such are the straits to which the Porte now finds itself reduced in consequence of the depreciation of the paper money, the serious loss that it entails upon the revenue (amounting, according to the Minister of Finance, to nearly two-thirds), and the alarm that it causes to the public, that it will be compelled to adopt the only measure which appears to offer a chance of restoring confidence, and of putting an end to the present state of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 15.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1310.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1,301, transmitting to your Lordship two petitions addressed to me by Bulgarians protesting against the decision of the Congress of Berlin as regards the separation of any part of the Bulgarian population from the tributary Bulgarian Principality, it is right that I should mention that it is believed here that these petitions emanate from a Russian source. There is no doubt that their style, and the very able and, if I may use the word, artful manner in which the case of the Bulgarians is placed before Europe, would lead to the suspicion that they are rather of Russian than of native Bulgarian origin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 16.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1312.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 24, 1878.*

ALTHOUGH no provision has been made by the Treaty of Berlin for the appointment of a Military Commission for the determination of the southern limits of the new Province of Eastern Roumelia, such a Commission has been named, and is about to begin its labours. As far as I can ascertain, the Russian Government was the first to suggest this measure. The object of Russia is probably to make it appear that Eastern Roumelia is no longer really a Turkish province, but a semi-independent State, or part of one. Otherwise why should it have a military frontier? Such a frontier can only be for defence, and would, consequently, be quite unnecessary if Eastern Roumelia is to continue as part of the Turkish Empire.

It is, of course, different in regard to the northern and western frontiers of the province, which are intended to be traced so that they may afford a line of defence for Turkey herself against future attack and invasion from Russia, and from the tributary State of Bulgaria, which will be used by her for purposes hostile to the Turkish Empire whenever it may suit her policy to do so.

I understand from Colonel Home that it is the evident intention of the Russian Commissioners so to trace this frontier as to make it as little defensible as possible, placing an interpretation upon the Article of the Treaty of Berlin referring to it which is not, it appears to me, in conformity either with the spirit of the Treaty or with the intentions of the Congress. If care be not taken, therefore, Eastern Roumelia will receive a weak frontier on the dangerous or Bulgarian side, and a strong military one to the south, where it would seem desirable that the province should not have a strong defensible frontier which could be used against Turkey.

This matter has, no doubt, been under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government, but, as it appears to me one of some importance, I would venture to call your Lordship's attention to it before the Military Commission commences its work.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 17.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1313.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two letters addressed to me by Major Gordon, with reference to the non-attendance of the Turkish Commissioner for the delimitation of the southern frontier of Eastern Roumelia at two meetings of the Com-

mission, which, consequently, led to no result. I have made representations on the subject to Safvet Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Major Gordon to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, October 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that yesterday, at a non-official meeting of the Commission for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia, it was decided that the first official meeting should be held to-day at 1 o'clock.

The Commissioners, excepting the Turkish, met at the hour named, and, after waiting until 2 P.M., a letter from Tevfik Bey, Commissioner for the Sublime Porte, was received, regretting that he was unable to attend.

I would most respectfully venture to ask your Excellency to point out to the Sublime Porte how greatly the labours of the Commission are retarded by the non-attendance of a member after a day has been appointed for a sitting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Major Gordon to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, October 23, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Excellency, that on the 21st instant his Excellency Tahir Pasha presented, as the Turkish Commissioner, Colonel Tevfik Bey to the other European Commissioners appointed for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia.

A preliminary meeting was then held, when it was decided that an official sitting should take place on the 22nd instant, to which Colonel Tevfik Bey agreed.

All the Commissioners assembled at the hour and place named, with the exception of the Turkish, who sent a letter excusing his non-attendance. The meeting was adjourned until to-day, the 23rd instant.

Again the Commissioners met, and again the Turkish representative failed to attend; his assistant, Major Ehni, was present, but he possessed no powers, and further informed us that the Sublime Porte had not yet granted a commission to Tevfik Bey. Under such circumstances it was impossible to proceed with business, and the meeting was again adjourned.

Should it be considered desirable that the Commission for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia be constituted, and work done this year, I would most respectfully ask your Excellency to impress upon the Sublime Porte the absolute necessity of at once nominating a Commissioner, as the winter is fast approaching.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 18.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1314.)

Therapia, October 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED to my Austrian colleague the information contained in Consul Freeman's despatch No. 62 of the 26th ultimo, as to the destitute condition of a number of families of Ottoman employés and officers which had remained in Bosnia and Herzegovina. I now learn from Count Zichy that Baron Philippovich has received orders from the Austro-Hungarian Government to give every possible facility for the return of these families to Turkey, and that the Austrian military authorities have been instructed

to forward such families across the frontier into Austria, to Trieste and Ragusa, and to provide them with the means of subsistence. From these points they will be forwarded to Constantinople, at the expense of the Ottoman Government, and in accordance with an arrangement concluded with the Ottoman Embassy at Vienna. His Excellency further informs me that the Porte having dispatched Lieutenant-Colonel Omer Vehby Bey to Serajevo to superintend the return of these families to Constantinople, an Austrian officer has been sent with him to assist him in the accomplishment of this duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 19.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1315.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I RECEIVED this morning your Lordship's despatch No. 1251 of the 12th instant, transmitting to me, for my information, a copy of a Circular telegraphic despatch from M. de Giers, dated the 24th September/6th October, describing the state of the Turkish territory in Europe recently evacuated by the Russian forces, and the massacres and ill-treatment to which the Christian populations have been exposed from the Mussulmans.

I would venture to suggest that this document should not remain unanswered, and we now have, I think, materials at our command which will furnish an answer to it. Three English officers, attached to the European Military Commission for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontiers, of whose perfect impartiality no doubt can be entertained, have visited the country in which the massacres and outrages are alleged to have been committed. They state that it is perfectly tranquil; that the Turkish authorities have taken all the measures in their power to protect the lives and property of the Christian population; and that with the exception of some isolated cases of brigandage and revenge, including assassination and robbery, no crimes committed by Mahommedans upon Christians of the nature described by M. de Giers have come to their knowledge. Similar statements have been made by Acting Consul Calvert, and Vice-Consuls Dussi and Odoni. They are confirmed by the personal observations of Baker Pasha, which I have communicated to your Lordship in my Confidential despatch No. 1307 of the 23rd instant.

It may, therefore, with perfect confidence be stated that the information contained in the Circular of M. de Giers that grave disorders had taken place in the localities evacuated by the Russian troops, and that Christians had been massacred at Silivria, is unfounded. The further statement that the Christian populations, seeing authority restored to those who before the arrival of the Russian troops had committed so many atrocities upon them, had fled in despair, and had joined *en masse* the retreating Russian troops, is equally inaccurate. No "atrocities," as far as I know, had ever been committed by the Mussulmans upon the Christians in the districts evacuated by the Russian army, although the latter may have complained of bad government; and, according to the evidence which reaches me from all sides, only a part of the Bulgarian population has accompanied the Russian forces in their retrograde movement, incited to do so by Russian agents. The Porte has taken measures to reassure and protect the Christians, which appear to have been attended by good results, and it lost no time, on the representations of the Russian Government, to send a High Commissioner to concert further steps with the Russian authorities for this object.

Although, in pursuance of your Lordship's instructions, I supported the Russian representations on this subject, I could not but foresee that Russia would avail herself of the consent of the Turkish Government to act upon them, to make it appear that it admitted that the Russian statements as to the massacres and ill-treatment of the Christians were well founded, whereas, if it refused to do so, it would have been accused to Europe of an indifference to them which justified the orders given to stop the retreat of the Russian forces.

It can scarcely, therefore, be doubted that Russia has sought to avail herself of the pretext that massacres have occurred in the districts which the Russian troops had evacuated, in order to induce the European Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Berlin,

to assent to her occupation of Adrianople, and to her taking up a strong defensive line upon the territory which she still holds in violation of that Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 20.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1316. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of some confidential instructions which I have considered it desirable to give to Captain Trotter for his guidance, on taking charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Erzeroum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 20.

Sir A. H. Layard to Captain Trotter.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, October 22, 1878.*

I BEG to transmit to you a Vizirial letter directing the Governor-General of the Vilayet of Erzeroum to recognize you officially as charged provisionally by Her Majesty's Government with the affairs of the British Consulate in that city.

It would, I think, be desirable that you should proceed without delay to your post, as events of considerable importance are taking place within your Consular district. You have already received your instructions from Her Majesty's Secretary of State, and I have little to add to them. It will be your duty to keep Her Majesty's Government, and this Embassy, fully informed as to the manner in which Russia is executing the Articles of the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the evacuation of the territories that she is bound by that instrument to restore to Turkey, and as to the condition of the country from which the Russians have retired. It has been reported to me that in consequence of the menaces of the Mussulmans against, and of outrages committed by them upon, the Christian population, a large number of Armenians have left their villages and Erzeroum, and have accompanied the Russian army in its retreat. I should be glad to learn from you how far this statement is well founded. Should you find that the Christians are subjected on the part of the Mahommedans to ill-treatment, and that they are consequently abandoning their homes, you will represent to the Turkish authorities the great importance, in a political point of view, as well as on the grounds of justice and humanity, of taking immediate and effective measures for the protection of the lives and property of the Armenians, in order that they may be induced to remain. Should you obtain trustworthy information as to outrages committed upon Christians, you should at once bring them to the notice of the authorities, and take such steps as you properly can to obtain the punishment of those who may have been guilty of them, reporting them at the same time to this Embassy.

It is stated that the Kurds have been committing excesses both upon the Christian and Mussulman populations in the territories evacuated by the Russians. If such should be the case, you will endeavour to prevail upon the military authorities to adopt measures to keep these turbulent tribes in order, and to put a stop to their depredations.

It is alleged that Russian agents are already endeavouring to cause discontent, and to foment opposition to the Turkish Government amongst the populations of the east of Asia Minor, and especially amongst the Armenians, who are encouraged to demand autonomous institutions. Your attention will be directed to this matter, as it is important to ascertain whether there be truth in the statements to which I have referred, and if so, how far Russian intrigues have been successful, and how they are carried on.

I should be glad to receive from you such information as you may be able to obtain with reference to the produce and resources of your district, and any suggestions and observations that may occur to you with regard to their development, and for the increase and improvement of British trade. You will receive a Circular, relating to this matter, and directing your attention to the principal subjects of inquiry, which I have recently addressed to Her Majesty's Consuls in Turkey.

I need scarcely impress upon you the importance of maintaining cordial relations with the Turkish authorities.

You will endeavour to make them understand that any representations or remonstrances which you may consider it your duty to address to them, whether officially or privately, with reference to the condition of the country and the just complaints of the Christian population, are made in the interest of Turkey herself, and in a friendly spirit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 21.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1317.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 24, 1878.*

I INCLOSE translation of an article from the Turkish newspaper the "Terdjoumani Shark" with reference to the settlement of the Cretan question, and justifying the modifications of the organic law in a liberal sense which has been agreed to by Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Extract from the "Terdjoumani Shark."

(Traduction.)

DE même qu'il est positif que dans les révoltes des provinces Slaves de l'Empire Ottoman, il y avait toujours le doigt d'un grand Etat Slave, de même on ne saurait totalement nier que dans les révoltes de Candie, il y avait le doigt Hellénique. Nous devons, cependant, avouer, si nous ne voulons pas dissimuler la vérité, que les Crétois, au lieu de devenir toujours les organes aveugles de la Grèce, ne pensaient pour la plupart du temps qu'à assurer les droits de leur pays. Ce que les Crétois avaient en vue n'était point de se séparer de l'Etat Ottoman, pour s'annexer à un autre Etat, ou bien pour se mettre sous la protection d'un tiers, mais uniquement d'écarter tout ce qui saurait être un obstacle à leur progrès et à leur tranquillité, d'assurer en même temps leurs droits et leur avenir, et de vivre sous la souveraineté de la Porte. Ceci d'ailleurs ressort de la Convention qui vient d'être conclue entre les Plénipotentiaires de l'Assemblée Crétoise et son Excellence Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha. Il y a parmi nous des personnes qui considèrent cette Convention très-nuisible à l'Etat, pour la raison que l'on a accordé des priviléges aux Crétois et que par conséquent notre influence et notre prestige en ont été affectés; quant à nous, elle est au contraire très-avantageuse, et nous soutenons qu'elle ne portera aucune atteinte ni à notre force ni à notre prestige. Le Gouvernement possède des droits de souveraineté sur les habitants, mais les habitants ont de leur côté des droits naturels et civils sur leur pays, et aucun Gouvernement ne saurait les en dépouiller; en le faisant, il ferait une injustice. Il est vrai que l'ordre du Gouvernement doit toujours être exécuté, mais il faut qu'il soit au préalable revêtu de la sanction des habitants. Les lois d'un Etat doivent être respectées sur toute l'étendue de son territoire, mais elles doivent aussi subir des modifications suivant l'état et les besoins du pays. La modification d'une loi, en raison des besoins du pays, ne saurait faire qu'elle ne fût pas une partie intégrante de la loi de l'Etat, et surtout la bonne administration d'un pays, habité par divers éléments, comme l'Empire Ottoman, ne saurait être effectuée que par la modification progressive des lois selon les besoins de chaque pays.

Voilà pourquoi nous ne considérons pas les concessions qui auront lieu en vertu de la Convention de Candie comme des priviléges, mais bien comme des réformes que ceux qui éventuellement se sont succedés au gouvernement du pays auraient bien fait d'appliquer aussi à toutes les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe et d'Asie où les éléments sont divers. Candie n'en est pas placée sous la souveraineté ou la protection d'un autre Etat et elle n'en devient non plus une province privilégiée. Le Gouvernement n'y fait que modifier légèrement les lois, en raison des besoins du pays, et il met ainsi les habitants en possession de leurs droits naturels, droits qui seront également accordés aux autres provinces d'après les réformes dont l'application est déjà arrêtée. C'est pourquoi nous ne

devons que des remercîments à Moukhtar Pacha pour son succès. La question Crétoise a ainsi reçu sa solution, sans qu'il en fût porté atteinte aux droits de souveraineté et aux intérêts de la Sublime Porte.

No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 1318.)

Therapia, October 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a Report addressed to Colonel Home by Captain Clarke, whom he had sent to Adrianople to inquire into the movements of the Russians, and the state of the country from a military point of view. Your Lordship will observe that Captain Clarke entirely confirms the accounts given by Captain Ardagh and Lieutenant Chermside, and by other trustworthy persons as to the exaggerated nature of the statements made by the Russian Government and military authorities with regard to the treatment of the Christians by the Mussulmans on the evacuation by the Russian forces of Turkish territory recently occupied by them.

According to Captain Clarke's Report the Russian troops now at Adrianople are not so numerous as I had been led to believe from information received from other sources.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 22.

Captain Clarke to Colonel Home, R.E.

Adrianople, October 22, 1878.

Sir,

IN accordance with your instructions, I proceeded to Adrianople, and thence to Dédéagatch. On my way thither I made inquiries as to the outrages which have been alleged to have been committed by the Mahommedans upon the Christians, and which have been represented by the Russian authorities as of sufficient magnitude to necessitate the suspension for the time of the withdrawal of their troops from before Constantinople. The result of these inquiries, and of the information which I have been enabled to gather with regard to the movements of the Russians, I have the honour herewith to submit.

One of the results of the late disastrous war has been to sow very bitter dissension between Christian and Mahommedan; to such an extent that it may be many months or years before an order of things, by which the two communities might live in harmony together, can be re-established. At present the estrangement between the two is very great.

So long as the Russian authority remained dominant, the Mahommedan element was kept in subjection, and the excesses of the Christians were winked at. Under these circumstances, it is no matter for surprise that, on the cessation in certain districts of that power which had hitherto been paramount, reprisals for past wrongs should be made. These reprisals do not, however, find their vent in a general massacre, as has been represented by the Russians, but in the form of isolated outrages, such as might be expected in any country, no matter how civilized, which has been submitted to the same conditions. When we picture to the mind homesteads, and, in fact, entire villages, sacked and burnt, mosques desecrated, and whole families, hitherto in comparative affluence, rendered destitute and homeless; can we be surprised to find that retaliation should occur on the first opportunity which presented itself? Indeed, it is a matter for wonder that the outbreaks have not been more serious. But, as far as my information goes, that is to say, with regard to the occurrences which have taken place in the triangle Constantinople-Adrianople-Dédéagatch, the outrages and murders have been isolated, and are traceable, in the majority of cases, to motives of revenge. Nothing of the nature of a massacre, as we understand the term, has taken place.

In proportion as the Turkish regular troops advance into the districts abandoned by the Russians, order will be re-established. During the Russian occupation the Christian inhabitants of the villages round Dédéagatch used to be the scourge of the neighbourhood. The inhabitants of that little town used to be afraid to venture into the surrounding district, but a feeling of greater security prevails now that there is a detachment of regular troops in the place. If one can judge generally by the state of affairs at the little town of Sufly (eighteen miles south-west of Demotica), the Christians are quite able to look after themselves. Most of the people are armed, and patrols can be seen on the roads. The district round Malgara is said to be quiet. I have this on the authority of an Austrian gentleman who owns the tithes of the district, and who would be naturally interested in the tranquillity of the district. Nothing approaching massacre has taken place at Malgara.

The expression "massacre" is the "mot d'ordre" at the present time, to serve a certain purpose. The Russians say to the Christian peasants, "If you do not leave your villages and come with us as our troops retire you will be massacred." They say to the people of Adrianople, "We are afraid to leave your town, lest there should be a general massacre of the Christians." In this way the feelings of the people are so worked upon that they have petitioned the Russian authorities to remain in Adrianople. We may therefore expect to hear ere long that the Russians, in the interest of public order and security, are forced to remain at Adrianople for the winter. England is hardly likely to be deceived by so transparent a pretext.

The real reason for this hanging back on the part of the Russians must be sought elsewhere. There is little doubt that the Treaty of Berlin did not satisfy the aspirations of Russia. She aims at nothing less than a paramount position for her Slavs on the Balkan peninsula, and, consequently, the expulsion of the Ottoman power from Europe. Such may not be the avowed object of the Russian Government, but it is the aim of the military and middle classes. The Government does not check the current of political aspiration in this groove, as it diverts the attention of those classes from brooding over their internal condition nearer home. With this aim always before her eyes, with the prospect of England having her attention absorbed in Afghanistan, with Austria having her hands full in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and what with the numerous difficulties likely to arise when the new frontiers of the various States are attempted to be delimitated, is it to be expected that Russia will retire one foot of ground more than is absolutely necessary? Unprepared as she is for another war at the present time, she might hazard much, and, like the last stake of the gambler, risk her all in order to gain the much-coveted object of her aspirations, under the belief that Austria and England would be too much occupied to prevent her. The Eastern question is by no means settled by the Treaty of Berlin. It has only reached another stage.

The Russians are under no legal obligation to leave Adrianople. In the Treaty of Berlin no period is specified within which the Russian forces have to evacuate the territory remaining to Turkey. It may be a longer or a shorter time, according to their will and pleasure. Morally, they have to justify themselves before Europe for any delay, beyond that which is reasonable, in the evacuation, but there is nothing legally binding in the Treaty to force them to quit within a certain period of time.

Moreover, I hear, on authority, which I have no reason to doubt, that General Todleben has stated that, in his opinion, it would not be desirable to evacuate Adrianople until all the clauses of the Treaty of Berlin have been executed by the Turks. So that if we take into consideration the present unsettled state of affairs in the East generally, and the dilatory nature of Turkish procedure, this Russian occupation may be prolonged indefinitely, entailing hardships on the inhabitants by the prolongation of a condition of unrest, and production of no advantage to Europe generally, and Great Britain in particular.

Even at this early stage, when the ink with which the Treaty of Berlin was written is scarcely dry, Russia is in a small way setting at nought its provisions. The militia for Eastern Roumelia, according to Article XV of the Treaty, is to be levied in such manner that regard shall be had to religion in respect to the composition of the corps, the officers of which are to be named by the Sultan. If my information be correct, this militia is composed almost exclusively of Bulgarians, the proportion of Greeks being infinitesimal, and is, moreover, officered by Russians, the Sultan not having been consulted in the matter of their appointment.

The number of this militia is given to me at 20,000, but I am inclined to consider this figure very much exaggerated. They are represented to be a fine body of men, and to show a proficiency in military exercises.

There is no doubt that, in proportion as the Russian forces have retired from San Stefano upon Adrianople, they have carried many Bulgarian and Greek families with them. The vicinity of some of the railway stations is crammed with refugees. This wholesale exodus has been fostered by the Russians, who have not hesitated to pass

over our border-line recently traced, in order to induce the Christian villagers to leave their homes.

At Adrianople I met Massar Pasha, the Commissioner appointed by the Turkish Government to inquire into the state of the refugees, and travelled in the next carriage to him towards Dédéagatch. At the station of Sufly, where this was, a large concourse of Greeks assembled; he addressed some very suitable words of advice, exhorting the people to remain tranquil at their homes, and expressing his readiness to listen to any complaints which they might have to make. Some Greeks, including a priest, proceeded at his invitation to Ferré. On our arrival at Ferré (Fereljik), where the Pasha was to pass the night, there was a large deputation of the inhabitants of this chief town of the sandjak to receive him. Unfortunately in the interval between our departure from Sufly and our arrival at Ferré, the Pasha had imbibed so freely of mastir that he was unable to answer the deputation coherently. This I heard from an eye-witness, himself a Turkish employé, who also stated that the Pasha could only remain in the saddle with the greatest difficulty. This unseemly proceeding must have considerably marred the success of his difficult and delicate mission.

Although the Russians have temporarily halted in their retrograde movement from before Constantinople and have laid down a fixed frontier-line, they show no disposition to throw troops over this line, nor are they concentrating troops upon it. On the contrary, with the exception of maintaining a cordon of troops along this line they are returning slowly, but steadily, in the direction of Adrianople. Thus the head-quarters of the 4th Corps (General Skobeleff) are at Hansa, near Adrianople, while the head-quarters of the 9th Corps (General Stolepin) have been recently transferred from Adrianople to Philippopolis. The most advanced posts on the railways occupied by the Russians are Lulé-Bourgas on the Adrianople-Constantinople line, and Demotica on the Adrianople-Dédéagatch line. At Seidler-Schiflik and Sufly there is a small detachment of the Russian railway battalion for the administration of the transit service.

Adrianople and its immediate neighbourhood are converted into one large camp. Every available house, hotel ("han"), and barrack is occupied by troops, while camps of infantry, cavalry, and artillery, with their araba transport, stud the basins of the Maritza and Tundja valleys. The Turkish forts on the crests of the hills are in the same condition as when they were abandoned by them on the approach of the Russians. They are unoccupied; no guns are mounted in them. The forts are on the same type as those in the Buyuk Tchekmédji-Derkos position. They are in general too small; they do not offer sufficient difficulty for escalade, and they are remarkable for an utter absence of bomb-proof cover. A silent commentary on their inefficiency is given by the circumstance that the Russians have left them standing.

If the Russian troops contemplate passing the winter at Adrianople, they will require some better protection than their present tents. They must either be hutted, or else widely disseminated in cantonments, for it would be impossible to find room for the present force in the town. There are no indications of any present intention to hut. A few days back some mention was made of a large contract for planking, but no tenders were asked for, neither had anything further been heard of the matter on the day I left Adrianople.

Russian soldiers have been employed in brick-making, but this may have been a private arrangement, as it is a very common circumstance for the Russian soldier in his own country to hire himself out as a labourer, with the object of providing additional comforts for his messing, which his ordinary military pay does not enable him to procure.

A fairly approximate idea of the number of troops at present in the district left by the Treaty to Turkey may be obtained from the Head-Contractor's Return, which was communicated to me. The contract now in force (a monthly one) provides for the delivery of 50,000 pouds* per month at Adrianople; 16,000 pouds per month at Mustafa-Pasha; 16,800 pouds per month at Haskoi; and 13,000 pouds per month at Kirk-Kilissé This would show a total effective of 57,000 men, stationed between the borders of Eastern Roumelia and Constantinople. The number of rations of bread delivered one day last week at Adrianople was 20,000, but the number fluctuates daily, as troops are constantly going and coming. Judging from the number of camps round Adrianople, the troops cannot number much less than that figure, but it is probably the maximum.

Besides the Corps of Generals Skobeleff and Stolepin, the 14th Corps is now on its march from the Dobrudscha; it is to be followed by the 13th Corps. These with the 7th Corps, will make five corps to be located south of the Danube during the winter,

* 36 lbs. avoirdupois English.

while a sixth corps guards the communications in Roumania. At present the estimated force south of the Danube is less than 100,000 men.

The Russians display no activity at Adrianople. Their troops are exercised every morning in skirmishing, ball-practice, &c. The report that they were throwing up defensive works at Sazli, half-way to Havsa, proved to be false, as I went there myself. Very possibly the party of pioneers which was seen to be leaving Adrianople for that direction was merely intended to make preparations for a camp situated about two miles north of the ruins of the Sazlihan. The forts nearer the town, as already mentioned, lie neglected and untenanted.

I saw a brigade of Skobeleff's corps, with two batteries, march into Adrianople from Havsa on the 20th instant. They were a fine lot of men, rather ragged and dirty, but fit to go anywhere. The amount of sick was small. The guns, ammunition waggons, and small-arms ammunition waggons appeared in serviceable order.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. C. H. CLARKE.

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 1319.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the communication which I have just received from the Porte in answer to my *note verbale* of the 19th August last, which contained the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 928 of the 8th of the same month, relating to the reforms which Her Majesty's Government required the Sultan to introduce into His Majesty's Asiatic dominions. A copy of that note was transmitted to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1048 of the 21st August.

It is unnecessary for me to describe at any length to your Lordship the difficulties with which I have had to contend in obtaining this answer. There has been a strong party in the Ministry, and amongst persons of great influence in this country, which resolutely opposed all interference of foreigners in its internal affairs, and which has looked upon the reforms demanded by Her Majesty's Government as a violation of the sovereign rights of the Sultan and of the independence of Turkey. I have reason to believe that foreign influence has been employed very energetically, and not without some effect, to encourage and support this opposition. There has been the usual dilatoriness on the part of the Porte in the transaction of all matters of business, and the official forms which are necessary in carrying through a matter of this importance. The answer of the Porte to my note has been constantly debated in the Council of Ministers, and has been referred more than once to the Sultan. I have had to watch, as far as the information that I could obtain would enable me, the progress of this affair, and to use such influence as I may possess to prevent a reply being returned which would have been altogether unacceptable to Her Majesty's Government. I fear that the delays which have taken place, and which I have done my utmost to avoid, must have tired your Lordship's patience; they have well nigh exhausted mine. I must do the Sultan and Safvet Pasha the justice to state that those delays did not proceed from them; and that I have found them earnestly desirous to meet, as far as might be in their power, the wishes and views of Her Majesty's Government on this important subject.

It is for your Lordship now to determine whether the answer of the Porte is satisfactory, and, if not entirely so, whether it affords the basis for accomplishing those reforms which Her Majesty's Government are desirous should be carried out, with as little loss of time as possible, in Asiatic Turkey. The time at my command is so limited, in consequence of the departure of the messenger to-morrow morning, that I must limit myself to making but a few observations on the Porte's reply. It appears to me to be, on the whole, conceived in a liberal spirit, and to show a certain desire to act upon the suggestions and advice of Her Majesty's Government.

The Porte recognizes the necessity for the immediate formation of a gendarmerie, founded upon a European model, modified to suit the manners and customs of the country, and consistent with the sovereign rights of the Sultan. This gendarmerie, it would appear, is to be organized, but not commanded, by European officers, who are only to be retained in the Turkish service until the corps is completely instituted and organized. The important addition that some foreign officers should be placed on the

Central Council for the administration of the gendarmerie was, I understand, introduced by the Sultan himself. It is for Her Majesty's Government to decide whether they will insist upon the Porte going further, and placing the gendarmerie in certain cases under the direct command of European officers. This might, I think, be effected in time. The Turkish Government would, no doubt, make considerable resistance to it at first, but would probably be ready to employ hereafter foreigners who had shown themselves worthy of its confidence and equal to their duties.

The Porte declares its intention of reforming its judicial system and of organizing its Tribunals in conformity with the views of Her Majesty's Government, and of employing European legists in effecting these objects. But it considers that it would be contrary to the principles of the administration of justice that a foreign Judge should be appointed to each Tribunal whose consent should be necessary in every judgment. It also objects to naming Europeans as Judges who are unacquainted with the languages, laws, and customs of the country. It proposes, instead of placing Europeans as Judges on certain central Tribunals, as asked by Her Majesty's Government, to employ them as Inspectors, whose duties it will be to control the administration of justice in every vilayet.

I have already, in my despatch No. 1177 of the 24th ultimo, transmitted to your Lordship the draft of the regulations which the Porte intends to establish, and which define the duties and character of these Inspectors.

It appears to me that what the Turkish Government proposes is not unreasonable, and that if the European Inspectors, whose duty it will be not only to supervise the administration of justice in all the Tribunals of a vilayet, but to receive complaints against the Judges, to improve the condition of the prisons, &c., are men of integrity and capacity, and have independent powers, they would be better able to introduce really useful reforms, and would give rise to fewer difficulties with the Porte, and be less repugnant to Mussulman public opinion, than European Judges invested with the power claimed for them by your Lordship.

The answer of the Porte as regards the abolition of tithe-farming does not appear to me unsatisfactory. It is but reasonable that the new system should be first tried in one or two provinces, and be extended, if it proves successful, to other parts of Asiatic Turkey.

It will, I think, be found that, although this reform is one of great importance, and is calculated to promote the welfare of the country, it is one which, in its accomplishment, will be attended by considerable difficulties.

The Porte is careful to observe that it only engages to employ the European functionaries and officers whom it will take into its service, in order to effect the proposed reforms, until the three branches of the Administration to which they are to be applied are thoroughly organized, and their proper working assured.

The engagement that the Valis, Judges, and Collectors shall be named at least for five years, and that they shall only be dismissed if they commit a crime or offence which entails dismissal, if they resign, or if their dismissal is considered indispensable by the Imperial Government on account of some great public interest, appears to be satisfactory, except in so far as the latter condition is not sufficiently defined, and that some limit should be placed upon the exercise of this arbitrary right of dismissal on the part of the Sultan or the Porte.

I must apologize for these observations, written in great haste. I will only add that I trust that, if your Lordship does not consider the answer of the Porte altogether satisfactory, you will find in it the basis of a more complete understanding with the Turkish Government. I shall await your Lordship's instructions before answering it.

Your Lordship, in your despatch to me of the 8th August, instructed me to seek a formal engagement from the Sultan that His Majesty would put into execution the reforms required by Her Majesty's Government. I may observe that such formal engagements on the part of the Sovereign are not customary in Turkey; they are given by him through his Grand Vizier or Minister for Foreign Affairs, who has signed the note addressed to me. The Sultan had previously given his sanction to that note by his Imperial Iradé or Decree.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Séfvét Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sublime Porte, le 24 Octobre, 1878.

LA Sublime Porte a reçu la note-verbale que l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique a bien voulu lui adresser le 19 Août, au sujet des réformes à introduire dans les domaines de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan en Asie.

Ce document important a été soumis à l'examen attentif et aux délibérations du Conseil des Ministres, et la Sublime Porte s'empresse aujourd'hui, tout en exprimant au Cabinet de St. James sa reconnaissance pour l'intérêt qu'il veut bien prendre à l'accomplissement de cette œuvre capitale, de soumettre à l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique le résultat des travaux du Conseil des Ministres à ce sujet.

En considérant les réformes à un point de vue général, le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pu que confirmer les résolutions déjà prises antérieurement par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan relativement à la nécessité de modifier et de réorganiser le régime de la justice, de la police, et des finances dans ses Etats, résolutions qui n'ont été retardées que par la guerre et par l'empêchement d'y consacrer les ressources nécessaires.

La Sublime Porte a en même temps reconnu que le moment était venu de mettre ses projets à exécution en utilisant les travaux et les études déjà accomplis dans cet ordre d'idées.

Les trois points traités dans la note-verbale de l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique, et qui constituent l'ensemble des réformes les plus efficaces et les plus urgentes, ont été successivement discutés au sein du Conseil des Ministres et résolus en principe dans le sens suivant :—

1. En ce qui touche l'organisation de la gendarmerie la Sublime Porte reconnaît, comme elle l'avait déjà fait lors de la Conférence de Constantinople, la nécessité de créer un corps de gendarmerie fortement constitué qui pût assurer l'ordre et la sécurité dans les provinces et de puiser les éléments de cette organisation dans les institutions de même nature qui existent et qui fonctionnent avec tant de succès dans les Etats Européens.

Le Gouvernement Impérial ayant ainsi accepté en principe l'institution de la gendarmerie, il y a communauté de vue entre lui et le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique. Conformément à cette pensée la Sublime Porte introduira dans le Conseil d'Administration Centrale de la Gendarmerie quelques officiers étrangers offrant toutes les garanties d'honnêteté, de capacité, et de dignité de caractère. Elle prendra également à son service des officiers étrangers pourvus de mêmes qualités à titre d'Instructeurs, et leur concours sera maintenu jusqu'à ce que l'institution de la gendarmerie ait été complétement étudiée et organisée. A l'exemple des autres Etats dont chacun a ses lois spéciales concernant la gendarmerie, notre loi qui est en cours d'élaboration répondra aux coutumes du pays et aux mœurs de ses habitants, et sera conforme aux droits souverains de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan. Cette loi, dès qu'elle aura été élaborée, sera soumise à la sanction Impériale.

2. En ce qui touche la réforme judiciaire, la Sublime Porte prépare un plan de réorganisation des Tribunaux qui comporte, conformément aux idées émises par le Cabinet de St. James, divers degrés de juridiction et établit le principe de la stabilité des fonctions judiciaires pour tous les Magistrats qui n'auraient point manqué à leurs devoirs. De telle sorte que les emplois judiciaires soient relevés et entourés de toutes les conditions d'indépendance et d'impartialité. Là encore, le concours de l'expérience et de la science des légistes Européens pourra être grandement utilisé. Mais il paraîtrait contraire à tous les principes d'une administration régulière de la justice de faire siéger dans les Tribunaux des étrangers qui seraient investis d'un pouvoir supérieur à celui de leurs collègues, de telle sorte qu'un jugement ne pourrait être rendu sans leur assentiment. Il est également difficile de concevoir l'admission dans les Tribunaux de membres étrangers qui ne connaîtraient pas les langues, les lois, et les coutumes du pays. Ces inconvénients graves ne se présentent pas s'il s'agit simplement d'utiliser le concours des légistes étrangers pour l'inspection des Tribunaux, et en conséquence la Sublime Porte admet que des étrangers ayant toutes les connaissances spéciales nécessaires pourront être nommés à des emplois d'Inspecteurs Judiciaires que le Gouvernement Impérial se propose d'envoyer dans chaque vilayet pour contrôler l'administration de la justice.

3. En ce qui touche la réforme fiscale, l'abolition du système de la dîme fait l'objet des préoccupations du Gouvernement Impérial, mais comme la substitution d'un nouveau système exigera du temps avant de pouvoir être introduit dans tout l'Empire, la Sublime Porte se propose d'appliquer d'abord ce nouveau système d'impôt et une nouvelle méthode de perception à une ou deux provinces pour l'étendre ensuite aux autres parties de l'Empire,

lorsque l'expérience en aura démontré les avantages. Durant cette période de transition et d'épreuve le Gouvernement Impérial prendra à son service un certain nombre d'étrangers, versés dans les sciences financières pour concourir à cette importante réforme.

La Sublime Porte n'a pas besoin d'ajouter que le concours des fonctionnaires et des officiers étrangers qu'elle prendra à son service devra être maintenu jusqu'à ce que l'organisation des trois branches d'administration qu'il s'agit de réformer, sera entièrement accomplie et que le fonctionnement en aura été assuré.

La Sublime Porte partage entièrement la manière de voir du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique au sujet de la stabilité des Valis, des Magistrats, et des Receveurs des Finances nommés par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, et sa résolution est de leur assurer le bénéfice de leur maintien dans leurs emplois respectifs durant tout le temps qu'ils exerceront leurs fonctions avec honneur et avec la capacité exigée par la bonne expédition des affaires publiques. En tous, les fonctionnaires de ces trois ordres qui réunissent toutes les conditions indiquées plus haut, seront confirmés dans leurs emplois pour cinq années au moins, et ne pourront être destitués que dans les trois cas suivants :—

1. S'ils ont commis un crime ou un délit entraînant la destitution.
2. S'ils ont offert leur démission.
3. Si leur destitution est reconnue indispensable par le Gouvernment Impérial dans un grand intérêt public.

La Sublime Porte est convaincue que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique voudra bien reconnaître que le programme dont les principes généraux viennent d'être indiqués, tout en se conciliant avec les droits de souveraineté de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, répond à la fois au but désiré et aux intérêts bien entendus des populations de l'Empire Ottoman.

(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 24.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 1320.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 25, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1308 of the 23rd instant, I am informed by Safvet Pasha that the proposal for the appointment of a Commission to administer the Customs, composed principally of Europeans, was discussed by the Council of Ministers, and subsequently submitted to the Sultan. His Majesty is not, however, in favour of adopting the recommendations that were made as to its constitution, and as to the extensive powers with which it ought to be invested. His Majesty is of opinion that in the present temper of the people and the disorganized state of the country, he could not well venture upon a step calculated to give an almost exclusively European Commission so considerable an authority and control over the financial administration. Besides this consideration, it is also thought that, in the presence of the unsettled state of affairs, which continues to be aggravated by the political situation, the proposed Commission will be able to do little towards restoring confidence unless it could immediately dispose of ready money for the withdrawal of the caïmé, without having to reckon upon the probabilities of a future financial improvement for the attainment of its object.

It does not appear to me that these considerations, which I have stated in the terms used by Safvet Pasha, are of any very great weight. The fact is, that the Sultan believes that the immediate withdrawal of the caïmé *en bloc* is absolutely necessary to his own safety and to the maintenance of public security, and is intent upon obtaining a loan for the purpose. It is in vain that he is told that under present circumstances the difficulties in the way of raising money for Turkey are almost insurmountable, and that the only thing to be done is to stop the fall in the caïmé, and to bring it to a fair level by restoring public confidence, by convincing the public that the sum destined for its gradual extinction will be punctually and honestly applied to that purpose. This can only be effected if the revenues which are to provide for this sum are placed in the hands of such a Commission as M. Fournier and myself suggested to the Grand Vizier. The evil is now increasing daily, and some remedy, if only a temporary one, must be found to check it, or its consequences cannot be other than serious.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 25.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 1321.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 25, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 1230 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to state that Sir Collingwood Dickson is the only Military Attaché to this Embassy now at Constantinople. Captain Fife is in England on leave of absence, and Lieutenant Chermside has been transferred to the European Commission for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontiers. It appears to me very important that full and trustworthy information should be obtained and transmitted to Her Majesty's Government with respect to the movements and numbers of the Russian forces whilst they still occupy Turkish territory outside of Eastern Roumelia, which they are bound by Treaty to evacuate, and are in the vicinity of the capital. But it is, of course, for your Lordship to judge whether I am mistaken, and whether it is necessary to keep a Military Attaché here for the purpose of obtaining such information. Should your Lordship agree with me, I would venture to suggest that Sir Collingwood Dickson should remain here for the present as Military Attaché to the Embassy. He has organized means for obtaining military information, and my duties are so heavy that I could scarcely undertake the additional work of looking after this matter.

Your Lordship transmitted to me, in your despatch No. 1237 of the 10th instant, copy of a letter from the Secretary of the Admiralty to Sir Julian Pauncefote, stating that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty concur with Captain Fife as to the great importance of taking precautions to prevent the seizure of Gallipoli by the Russians, and consider it advisable that some competent person should be on the spot to warn Her Majesty's Ambassador of any threatening circumstances, so long as the Russian army remains within Eastern Roumelia. Not having any Military Attaché at the Embassy whom I could send to Gallipoli for the purpose indicated by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, I spoke on the subject to Colonel Home. He has been good enough to place Captain Murray, who is now on a military mission at Philippopolis, but will shortly be back in Constantinople, at my disposal, and I intend to request him to go to Gallipoli, and to remain there until Captain Fife returns, should your Lordship approve of this arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 26.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 1322. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October* 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from the French Consul at Adrianople, which has been communicated to me confidentially by the French Ambassador relative to Mazhar Pasha's Mission in connection with the departure of Christians from the districts evacuated by the Russian army.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 26.

M. Ronzeville to M. Fournier.

Andrinople, le 21 *Octobre*, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

MAZHAR PASHA est arrivé ici le 18 de ce mois, venant de Tchorlou et de Lulé-Bourgas.

Il est accompagné du Colonel Tahir Bey, chargé de l'aider à tranquilliser la population Chrétienne qui émigre le pays pour aller s'établir dans la Roumélie Orientale.

J'ai vu hier ces deux fonctionnaires de la Sublime Porte, qui m'ont paru être peu satisfaits du résultat de leur mission.

Tahir Bey n'a pas hésité de me déclarer qu'ils étaient parvenus à faire rentrer des villageois Chrétiens dans leurs foyers, mais que cependant leurs efforts n'avaient pas obtenu tout le succès qu'ils en attendaient.

Il a ajouté de plus, en me parlant à part, que les Turcs récoltaient maintenant le fruit de ce qu'ils ont semé dans le pays depuis cinq siècles.

Le Colonel est reparti ce matin pour aller rejoindre les troupes Turques de Tchorlu, et Mazhar Pacha part cette après-midi pour Feredjik Keshan, Malgara, et Dédéagatch.

L'un et l'autre emportent d'ici la certitude que les Russes sont décidés à passer l'hiver à Andrinople. Le Général Todleben, dans ses conversations avec eux, le leur a fait pressentir à plus d'une occasion.

Pendant le dîner et la soirée qui ont été donnés en l'honneur des Envoyés du Gouvernement Turc, le Général Todleben a exprimé ses regrets au sujet de méfaits dont les Turcs se seraient rendus coupables dans les localités évacuées par les troupes Russes.

Le Général-en-chef a ajouté que ces désordres ont provoqué l'émigration Chrétienne qui nécessite maintenant l'ajournement du départ de l'armée Russe de la partie du pays qui doit être réoccupée par les autorités Ottomanes.

Beaucoup de nos réfugiés Mussulmans, qui étaient partis pour leurs villages de la province de Slimnia, reviennent depuis quelque jours à Andrinople.

Les autorités Russes de Yamboli les obligent à quitter leur pays afin de céder la place aux nombreux réfugiés Chrétiens, qu'on y dirige d'ici tous les jours.

Ces réfugiés Musulmans demandent à être envoyés à Constantinople, afin que de là ils soient autorisés à aller prendre possession des villages abandonnés par les Chrétiens.

Cette combinaison semble convenir aux Russes, dont le but est justement celui d'attirer autant que possible l'élément Chrétien dans le territoire de la Roumélie Orientale, où l'élément Musulman était jadis très-nombreux.

De cette façon la politique Russe obtient un double avantage—celui de l'élimination de la race Turque dans un pays déjà hostile au Gouvernement de la Porte, et celui de l'absorption de tous des Grecs qui sont actuellement entraînés dans le mouvement de cette émigration que les Russes ont si habilement préparée.

Nous assistons ici depuis quelques jours à un grand mouvement de troupes qui nous arrivent de tous côtés.

Il y a un tel encombrement dans les rues d'Andrinople, et dans la station du chemin de fer, qu'il est matériellement impossible de pouvoir s'y reconnaître.

On a pu cependant constater par des relations qu'on a avec des employés du chemin de fer, qu'aucun train militaire n'est encore arrivé de Baba-Eskisi, et qu'on a, au contraire, ces jours derniers plusieurs trains chargés de soldats qui étaient expédiés vers cette dernière localité.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) F. RONZEVALLE.

No. 27.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 1325.)
My Lord,

Therapia, October 25, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Adrianople, Salonica, Sulina, Mossul, Busreh, and Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, October 21, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that Mazhar Pasha, charged by the Porte to inquire into the causes of the exodus of Christian inhabitants from the districts now being evacuated, and to endeavour to arrest the progress of that movement, arrived here on Friday evening the 18th instant, and left this afternoon for Demotica and Dédéagatch.

The Pasha informed me that General Todleben professed to be ready and anxious to second the objects of his mission.

As regards the massacres alleged to have taken place at various points on the withdrawal of the Russians, his Excellency assured me that the result of his inquiries on that subject in the districts between Constantinople and this place now occupied by Turkish troops has been to establish the complete falseness of the reports to that effect, so far as those districts are concerned. As to the case of Silivrin, with respect to which General Todleben stated to me (as reported in my despatch of the 5th instant) that there really was some foundation for those rumours, the Pasha informed me that on inquiry the number of victims in the first place was reduced from twenty to three only, namely, two Bulgarians and one Greek. A question having next arisen as to the date of the occurrence through which these persons lost their lives, Mazhar Pasha ordered the bodies to be exhumed in the presence of Russian as well as of Turkish medical men; when by the admission of the former the state of the corpses showed that death must in each instance have occurred at least three weeks before, that is to say, during the Russian occupation. It appears to have been through an act of ordinary brigandage that these men lost their lives.

On the other hand, there has been, the Pasha states, no lack of outrages committed by Christians on Mussulmans within the districts still on this side of the Russian lines. For instance, at Lulé Bourgas, a day or two before his arrival, some Bulgarians had broken into the house of a Turk (whose name he stated to me), and called upon him to give up his daughter to them. The girl succeeded in effecting her escape, whereupon the ruffians outraged her mother instead. Among other forms of insult to which the Turks were being subjected was that of riding on their backs, alluded to in a previous despatch as put in practice at Kirk-Kilissa. One old man (whose name the Pasha also gave me) was ridden in that fashion with a telegraph wire for a bridle, and when he fell under the weight of his load was beaten unmercifully.

Notwithstanding all the provocation they receive up to the last moment the Mussulmans in the evacuated districts continue to display exemplary forbearance. With the good sense and discrimination which has characterized them in the Rhodope and elsewhere, and which has been signally wanting on the part of the Bulgarians generally, they refrain from visiting upon the respectable and well conducted section of the Christian population the misdeeds of its ruffianly classes, who, as I have before stated, take good care not to remain behind. For this last reason the exodus, known as it is to carry with it all the scum of the Bulgarian and Greek communities, cannot be regarded as an unmixed evil.

It is now a known and universally accepted fact here that the movement, so far as it has affected the respectable classes, is due to Russian instigation. From all sides I hear the same thing, that the fugitives on being asked the reason of their flight reply, "The Russians told us that if we remained behind the Turks would massacre us, and that if we went with them we should be safe and prosperous."

The exodus, so far as it would otherwise have continued to prevail in that direction, has been stopped by the Turkish authorities at Seidler, which is the present limit of Ottoman jurisdiction between Constantinople and this. It appears, however, to have ceased spontaneously in the districts further westward up to the line of country between Adrianople and Dédéagatch. In this latter region it has, on the contrary, within the last few days become even more active. In this part of the country, indeed, exposed as it is to attack from the Rhodope insurgents, there are perhaps more valid grounds for apprehension than elsewhere. Mazhar Pasha, before taking his departure this afternoon, in the presence of M. Hitrowo (Director of the Diplomatic Chancellerie of the Commander-in-chief), addressed some hundreds of fugitives (chiefly Bulgarians from the districts of Demotica and Ferredjik) who were at the railway station, and persuaded them to send back with him to Demotica two delegates in order to confer with the Turkish authorities there on the subject of a return to their homes under satisfactory guarantees of protection.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 27.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, October 7, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 30th ultimo the branch of the "Israelite Universal Alliance" in this city had an examination of the pupils of the boys' and girls' schools, when the new school-house was inaugurated.

His Excellency the Vali, the Greek Archbishop, the Chief Rabbi, the Musteschar Constantinides Pasha, and myself, were present, and the recitals gave great satisfaction.

Typhus fever has disappeared from the city, but there has been these last two months more fever than has been known for many years. I mean the common ague fever, general in the Archipelago. Almost every house has one of its inmates suffering from fever, and all the supplies of sulphate of quinine have been exhausted; last week not a grain could be procured.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 3 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Stokes to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sulina, October 17, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE now the honour of reporting to your Excellency that the Russian military authorities have received instructions to replace the guns in the batteries, but, up to the present time, they have not done so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) O. STOKES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Russell to Consul-General Nixon.

Mossul, September 15, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that his Excellency Nassim Bey, the new Governor of Mossul, arrived here on the 29th ultimo; he has been for some time in the Kurdistan Mountains reporting upon the state of affairs there.

On the 30th ultimo I paid his Excellency a visit; he speaks French well, and by his conversation I think he will show himself to be a more energetic Governor than the late Mustapha Pasha.

His Excellency has arrived in Mossul at rather a trying time for a new Governor, as he will be plunged immediately into these Chaldean disputes, and not being acquainted with them, he will have to be careful not to show any partiality to either party, but simply carry out the orders of the Sublime Porte; if not he will be sure to make matters worse.

Referring to the present disturbed state of the country, his Excellency informed me that reports were greatly exaggerated concerning it.

I beg to report to you that a Kurdish Chief, by name Sheikh Mohammed, of Zeebar, who has been a prisoner here for nearly eighteen months, escaped on the morning of the 28th ultimo, and has not since been captured; it was on account of this Sheikh that the Kurds some time ago came down in large numbers, from Acre and Zeebar, to demand the Pasha to give him, but they themselves were made prisoners, as I reported to you in my despatch of the 7th June.

I have the honour to inform you that 300 cavalry who came here with the new Governor proceeded to Bagdad on the 2nd instant, and that to-day a battalion of infantry is expected to arrive here from Serh.

I have the honour to report also that the Chief of the Police has been away for some days past in the neighbourhood of Eski Mossul, in order to punish the Jeboor Arabs, who have been very turbulent lately, and have done a great deal of mischief; the Chief of

the Police is expected back to-day and he will bring with him some twenty Jeboor Arabs as prisoners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. F. RUSSELL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Robertson to Consul-General Nixon.

Busreh, September 22, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that in consequence of the disturbed state of the Arab tribes around Kurnah, the gun-boat "Iskenderia" and the transport "Nejd" proceeded thither with Kassim Pasha, Khaled Bey, and about 300 men from Kassim Pasha's estates on the 18th instant. The cause of the disturbances is the general unpopularity of the Sheikhs, whom his Excellency Abdullah Pasha has named, and their consequent inability to recover the revenue for which they have rendered themselves responsible. I understand that from this cause a great part of the revenue of the Muntafik will be lost to Government this year.

It is said that Abdullah Pasha is anxious to reduce the tribes to submission to his nominees by force, but the presence of Kassim Pasha is a guarantee that a coercive policy, which would probably result in a general rising of the Arabs of that district, will not be attempted. Kassim Pasha's intention is to send for the leading men of the tribes and endeavour to reconcile them while obtaining the best terms for the Government that he can.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. ROBERTSON.

Inclosure 6 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, October 18, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the substance of a recent conversation with two of the better-educated class of Bulgarians here, both of them members of the local Council, and which may serve to illustrate the feeling lately developed by Russian propagandism amongst those Bulgarians who, by their position, are best able to set in motion the ignorant masses.

The conversation began by my being asked when the European Commission for the reforms to be introduced into Eastern Roumelia was likely to begin to put them into execution; then I was told, "We had, at first, hoped great things from this Commission, and that it would have rendered the position of the Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia even better than that of those in Bulgaria, but now we see that it will do nothing."

"Why?" I asked.

"Because we see by the example of the Rhodope Commission that the Great Powers will never be able to pull together, whilst Russia is the only one amongst them which will stand up for us, and from whom we can hope to obtain our just rights."

"And what conclusion do you draw from this?"

"Simply, that this country must be annexed to Bulgaria: at Plovdiv" (Philippopolis) "the other day, General Todleben said, whilst reviewing our Bulgarian volunteers, that 'when he looked upon such troops as he saw before him he could not but believe that Eastern Roumelia must become a part of Bulgaria.'"

"Do you mean that you, by yourselves, would resist the decision of Europe, as set forth in the Treaty of Berlin, to which Russia herself was a party?"

"Well, you know that our nation in the Turkish time was very fearful" (*sic*, the conversation was carried on in English and Turkish); "but we have since been so much encouraged by the Russians that we are no longer afraid. I don't mean to say that we could beat regular troops, such as the English or French, in the field."

"Oh, you are thinking of guerilla warfare?"

"Exactly, guerilla warfare; we have plenty of arms, and Russia has given us 30,000 chassepôts at a rouble each, and I can assure you the country could not be conquered until a fourth of its entire population has been destroyed."

"There are few instances in history of such a wholesale slaughter taking place."

"Well, you will see; the country will never accept even the nominal rule of the Sultan, or to have the Turks back amongst us. Do you suppose that revolutionary agents are not already at work? The country will never be tranquil until our rights are settled upon the bases of the Treaty of San Stefano. What do you think yourself?".

"I think that if you do all you talk about, the last state of this country will be worse than the first."

"For a time, yes; but afterwards better."

As I rose to go, "Tell us, Mr. Brophy, do you think Europe will allow us to choose General Ignatieff as Prince of Bulgaria?"

"I fancy Russia will settle your votes for you, without much consulting you or Europe."

"I suppose so, too; but if we are left to ourselves we shall choose General Ignatieff; he has done so much for us."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 7 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, October* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that on the 16th instant four companies, or about 580 men, of the newly-raised Bulgarian troops, marched into Bourgas, in order, it is said, to form a permanent garrison for the town. These recruits (whose officers, and some non-commissioned officers, are Russian) are very imperfectly drilled, as might be expected with peasants taken only a few weeks ago from the plough or the sheep-fold; as yet they have received only a linen tunic, or blouse, and trousers, with a great coat, whilst they retain their own sheep-skin caps of various models. Many of them were foot-sore, probably from being unaccustomed to wear boots, although I believe they were permitted to march in their own raw-hide sandals ("tcharryks") till within a mile of the town.

Many spectators of their entry were, as well as I, particularly struck with the great want of physique amongst these troops, many of whom seemed almost unable to carry the Krnka rifle they are armed with, and with a haggard and half-starved expression generally remarkable amongst them. I have been brought so much in contact with the Bulgarian peasants in their villages that the difference between the sturdy lads at the plough or tending their sheep, and the same race in course of being moulded into Russian soldiers, impressed me very forcibly.

During the day flags were hung out from all the houses, and at night there was a general illumination.

With regard to this species of general rejoicings—and as I see that General Todleben has telegraphed an account of his being thus enthusiastically received everywhere on his journey from Bourgas through the interior—I have the honour to remark that they are always got up by order of the Russian police; a crier is sent round enjoining all the inhabitants to hang out flags, illuminate, &c., under a penalty of so many roubles, and the order is of course complied with, although the great majority of the rejoicers have not the slightest idea what they are going to rejoice for.

Of these obligatory festivals there have been six or seven every month since the Russian occupation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 8 in No. 27.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, October* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency the subjoined list of villages in the caza of Karnabad in which Turks are still domiciled, having either not emigrated (as is the case in the mountain villages), or having returned by way of Adrianople and Yamboli:—Yendjikeui, Yenikeui, Soungoular, Tcherkessli, Kuipekli, Couroudjoular, Cassimdjé, Balabanczo, Sheikhkeui, Sadova, Kyrdjilar, Fotlatch, Issouplou, Kantché Mahallé, Gueuktcheren, Barouk, Casallik Yeni Mahallé, Dobral, Kishlakeui.

Returning fugitives from the three villages of Abdolkeui, Sinjiklar, and Yeni Mahallé, which have been totally destroyed by fire, are now quartered in the villages of Tcherkessli and Soungoular.

The Bulgarian Governor of Karnabad, Hadji Mina Popoff, has, I believe, done his best to reconcile the conflicting elements of Christians and Mussulmans, and I believe that in that caza the two races (for the present moment) are living in comparative harmony. I should, however, mention that my information is derived from Bulgarian sources.

In the town of Bourgas, Bulgarians and Russian soldiers have lately re-commenced cutting down with axes the already half-destroyed houses in the Turkish quarter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 28.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 3. Political. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 22, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Russian Ambassador has, after some, it would seem, not purposeless delay, supplied me with a letter of introduction to the Russian Military Governor-General of Bulgaria, who is, now, as I learn, about definitely to remove his head-quarters from Philippopolis to Sofia, where the members of his Provisional Government, namely, a Head Chancellor and President of Council, a Minister of War, one for the Interior, one for the Exterior, and one for Public Instruction, this last a Bulgarian, the four preceding being of Russian nationality, are also established. The direction of Finances and Public Works is assigned to the Chancellor.

The objects of the Russian Governor in fixing himself at Sofia, on the East Roumelian frontier, instead of Tirnova, are self-evident; but it is not less evident that the Ottoman Commissioner, and the Delegates *ad hoc* of the other Powers, must, however, under protest, conform themselves to the actual circumstances as regards their own place of residence, under penalty of self-imposed inefficiency should they reside for the present at Tirnova or elsewhere.

Accordingly the Ottoman Commissioner, Pertev Effendi, an Armenian, having called on me to communicate the instructions given him by the Porte, and to ask my advice regarding his conduct and movements, I urged him to obtain permission from his own Government to set out for Sofia without delay, whither the French and Austrian Consuls-General will also, as I have been assured by the corresponding Ambassadors, immediately proceed.

Pertev Effendi further informed me that his own delay thus far had been by instruction from the Grand Vizier, acting in conformity with the expressed wish of the Russian Embassy, which dissuaded the Ottoman Government from sending its Representative on, so ran the phrase, a useless errand.

I have reason to think that it is the imminent arrival of the Ottoman Commissioner, with myself and my colleagues, that has in a measure determined Prince Dondoukoff on withdrawing from East Roumelia to within the limits of his proper jurisdiction; also the near arrival of the Commissioners for East Roumelia, and probably the fact of his own work in that province having been by this time brought as far as the Russian Government considers expedient for the present.

The instructions received by Pertev Effendi from the Porte, and communicated to me, had reference to little else than compensation for Wakoof lands and other property, Imperial or private, belonging to the Ottoman Government and its Mahommedan subjects in Bulgaria, but now appropriated by the Bulgaro-Russian Administration. He requested my assistance in determining the amount of the said properties, and of their due compensation, as also towards obtaining the latter. This assistance I promised within the limits of my official attributions.

His instructions not extending, as it appeared, further, I confined myself on my part to suggesting to him in general terms the other points designated or implied by the Treaty of Berlin, as noted in your Lordship's despatch No. 2, Political, without developing further considerations.

Speaking, however, of the freedom of deliberation and action required for drawing up the Organic Law, and for the coming election, Perter Effendi stated that he believed that the choice of Prince Charles of Roumania would be acceptable to the Porte. On this subject I declined to have as yet any opinion.

My own departure for Sofia is fixed for to-morrow, my actual delay at Constantinople being solely due to the dilatoriness of the Ottoman authorities in issuing the necessary exequatur requested of them by his Excellency the Ambassador six days ago.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 29.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 83. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Scutari, October 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that affairs in North-Eastern Albania continue in a most unsettled state.

Although the League, split up into Committees and sub-Committees—some religious and others military—has lost somewhat of its importance, it has still sufficient influence to raise up violent resistance against any measure represented to it as opposed to Albanian interests. Local jealousies and private personal aspirations have weakened the national character of the League, and have subjected it more than ever to an occult guidance, which I have no hesitation in attributing to the Valis of Kossovo and Scutari.

The influential Sheik Mustapha, of Kalcandele, who had been sent to Constantinople for the purpose of deprecating any cessions of Albanian territory, has now returned and visited all the principal towns of the Kossovo Vilayet. He is said to have been received with great honour by the Sultan, and to have been provided with an Imperial Firman as a mark of His Majesty's good-will. At Jacova he took up his residence with the notorious Kadi Karanitza, thus countenancing the recent tragedy enacted there; and the military sub-Committee of Prisrend is reported to have nominated him its Chief, in the hope of its example being followed by all the other Committees, and thus securing for the Sheik the supreme military command.

On the other hand, some assert that Sheik Mustafa bears the Sultan's orders to endeavour to pacify the existing public agitation, and these contradictory rumours help to separate further and further the action of the different Committees of the League.

From political or other reasons, newspaper telegrams, dated from Belgrade, represent the Albanians as having sent considerable reinforcements to the Mahommedans in Bosnia, and to be massing their forces at Novi-Bazar and other frontier towns for the purpose of opposing the Austrians should they advance to the Albanian confines. As far as I can learn, no Albanians whatever have passed into Bosnia, and I am still of opinion that, should an enemy march into the country, the resistance, though obstinate, would be entirely local, each district or town having to rely principally upon its own resources and strength.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 30.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 17, 1878.*

REFERRING to my telegram of the 15th instant, I have the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Governments (excepting that of Turkey) have now nominated Commissioners for the delimitation of the boundaries of Eastern Roumelia.

Tahir Pasha has referred the matter to the Sublime Porte, and hopes to be able to give an answer on the 19th instant, on which date the Bulgarian Commission will hold its first sitting.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 31.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of the Commission which Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to grant to me, and which I have attached as the inclosure to despatch No. 1, dated the 25th September, 1878.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 32.

Major Gordon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 9.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October 25, 1878.*

I REGRET to have to report, for your Lordship's information, that since my arrival on the 14th instant but little progress has been made in the labours of the Commission for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia.

On the 21st instant, at a meeting of the Bulgarian Commission, it was notified that the Governments, forming the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, had nominated Commissioners to act for Roumelia, including a Turkish Colonel who was duly presented.

The Roumelian Commission held a preliminary meeting that day, when it was decided that the first official meeting should take place on the 22nd instant.

The Commissioners met at the hour and place named with the exception of the Turkish representative, the latter sending a letter excusing his non-attendance. The meeting was adjourned until the following day, the 23rd instant, when we again met, but the Turkish representative was again absent; on this occasion his assistant attended.

On proceeding to verify our powers it was found that the Sublime Porte had granted no credentials to their Commissioner.

Under these circumstances, there was no course left but to adjourn the sitting until a Turkish representative be duly accredited.

Each of the other Commissioners felt bound to bring to the notice of the Ambassador of his country that at a preliminary meeting, held on the 21st instant, a Colonel of the Turkish army had been presented to act as Commissioner for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia, but on an official meeting being held, that he had failed to attend, having no powers from his Government.

I have this day been informed that the Sublime Porte will nominate a Commissioner without further delay, but not the officer presented on the 21st instant.

I am of opinion that if the Commission be constituted this week, we will be able to commence our out-door work at the beginning of November, and that we should commence with that portion of the boundary line which runs generally from the north of Adrianople to the Black Sea; my colleagues mostly hold the same opinion.

The boundary line in the neighbourhood of the Rhodope mountains could not be undertaken this year, the country being in too unsettled a state.

If there is much further delay there will be little prospect of any out-door work being accomplished this year, the season being so advanced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 33.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 23.)

My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, October 24, 1878.*

THE telegram which I had the honour to despatch to your Lordship on the 22nd instant contained a general statement of the results of the first meeting of the Commission.

As the Protocol which embodies the result of that meeting has not yet been printed, I am unable to forward it.

But I inclose notes prepared at the time by Captain Ardagh, C.B., on which the Protocol is based.

The restriction in the Russian Commissioner's letter of credence from the Russian Ambassador was very peculiar, and as it reserved to the Russian Government the right of rejecting the whole work of the Commission should they think fit, and should they find that their Commissioner was outvoted, I especially reserved similar powers for Her Majesty's Government.

As regards the Servo-Bulgarian boundary, the Commission appear to think that they are entirely free of all responsibility, formal or otherwise, on the subject.

The instructions your Lordship gave me by telegram on the 16th instant will be found to have been attended to in the notes appended, and also on the face of the Protocol.

The second meeting of the Commission was held yesterday, the 23rd, "To determine how the frontier was to be delimitated."

After a great deal of discussion it became apparent that, as stated in my despatch No. 16 of the 10th October, the Commissioners were determined to do little more than ride over the ground and give a written description of it. I therefore formulated a statement of how I considered the work should be performed. To this statement the Russian Commissioner agreed. The majority of the Commission, consisting of all the other members, being of a different opinion, and considering that neither surveys nor boundary marks were requisite, and that their duties were simply to define somewhat more exactly the frontier than was done at Berlin, leaving the line to be eventually marked out by some other agency, I, in accordance with your Lordship's instructions contained in your telegrams of the 16th and 19th instant, yielded the point, so far as the Dobrudscha frontier was concerned, reserving full rights for Her Majesty's Government to take such steps as they may think desirable as regards the Balkan frontier.

So far I am glad to inform your Lordship everything has been most harmonious. The Russian Commissioner has withdrawn the pretension he originally raised to include the town of Kosghun in Bulgaria. I believe this has been done, because Colonel von Scherff, the German Commissioner, stated unofficially that he had instructions to obtain the best frontier possible for the Roumanians.

I trust that the steps I have hitherto taken and the opinions I have expressed may meet with your Lordship's approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 33.

BULGARIAN BOUNDARY COMMISSION.

Notes from which the Protocol of the 1st Meeting, held October 21, 1878, at Galata Serai, was prepared.

Present:

On the part of—		*Commissioners.*
Germany	..	Colonel v. Scherff, Commanding 29th Regiment de l'Infanterie.
Austria	..	Colonel Baron v. Ripp.
France	..	Colonel Lemoine.
Great Britain	..	Colonel Robert Home.
Italy	.. ..	Lieutenant-Colonel Orero, d'Etat Major. Captain Somaghi.
Russia	..	Colonel Bogoliubow.
Turkey	..	Son Excellence Tahir Pasha; also Papazian Effendi and Turkish Delegates; and Captain Ardagh, one of the English Delegates.

1. The Commissioners laid their powers on the table.

The powers were read, and found to vary in form.

The English Commissioner had full powers; also the Turkish Commissioner. The French, German, Austrian, and Italian Commissioners had restricted powers.

The Russian Commissioner's letter of appointment contained an express reservation on the part of the Imperial Government to object after the labours of the Commission had been brought to a close.

In consequence of the restrictions in the powers of other Commissioners, *Colonel Home* declares that he reserves the right to refer questions to his Government.

The meeting accepts his reservation.

2. The meeting proceeds to elect a President.

Colonel Lemoine proposes that, in accordance with custom, precedent, and courtesy, his Excellency Tahir Pasha, the Representative of the country whose hospitality they enjoyed, should be requested to act as President.

Colonel Home seconds.

Colonel Bogoliubow is of opinion that the questions of presidency at and away from Constantinople should be considered separately; and proposes, as an amendment, that his Excellency Tahir Pasha be requested to act as President at Constantinople.

Colonel Lemoine points out that the Commission will always be on Ottoman territory.

Baron de Ripp admits that Tahir Pasha should be President at Constantinople, but considers that elsewhere the election should be by simple majority.

Colonel von Scherff remarks that the Commission is European, not Turkish, and thinks that the principle of appointing a Turkish officer as President is inadmissible.

Colonel Orero observes that the Representatives of countries interested in the decision might be objected to.

Colonel Home sees no reason why the constitution of the Commission should not be the same both at Constantinople and on the ground, and thinks that the same President should be appointed for all the meetings.

Colonel Bogoliubow points out two principles of choice—territorial by courtesy, and the principle of impartiality advocated by Colonel Orero. He supports Baron de Ripp's amendment.

Tahir Pasha inquires if there is any difference between the functions of the Commission at Constantinople and on the ground.

Colonel Orero observes that the most important object is to have a practical guarantee of impartiality. The President, like a judge, should be unprejudiced in any questions he may be called on to decide. Only general principles will be dealt with at Constantinople, while diverse interests will be under discussion on the ground.

Colonel Scherff thinks that the Turkish Representative can plead his cause better as a member than as President.

Colonel Bogoliubow admits that neither Turkey nor Russia can be considered as uninterested in the result.

Colonel Orero, while relying on the impartiality of the Turkish Commissioner, thinks that Russia might reasonably object.

Colonel Home remarks that the Boundary Commission of 1857 practised a system of presidency in rotation.

The Commissioners divide on Baron de Ripp's amendment:—

"That Tahir Pasha be requested to act as President at Constantinople, and at their last meeting in that capital to propose the election of a President for their work in the field by simple majority."

Germany, yes; Austria, yes; France, no; Great Britain, no; Italy, yes; Russia, yes; Turkey, no.

Four for; three against.—Carried.

His Excellency Tahir Pasha is requested to accept the Presidency at Constantinople on these conditions.

Tahir Pasha regrets that he cannot accept the conditions.

The Commissioners unanimously request Tahir Pasha to accept the Presidency at Constantinople as a mark of courtesy and homage on their part.

His Excellency Tahir Pasha accepts, and takes the chair.

Colonel Bogoliubow moves that Colonel Lemoine be requested to assume the supervision of the Secretariat, to consist of Delegates of Russia, Turkey, France, and England.

Colonel Lemoine accepts the direction of the Secretariat.

The Commission proceeds to consider the mode of voting.

Colonel Lemoine proposes that all questions before the Commission be decided by simple majority, the arguments and nationalities of the dissentient minority being recorded.

Colonel Home seconds.

Baron de Ripp accepts, subject to right of reference to his Government.

Colonel Home points out that it will be open to all the Commissioners to consider their powers as restricted as those of Colonel Bogoliubow.

Colonel Orero reserves the right to accede to the majority, should he be among the minority and desire to change.

Colonel Lemoine points out that the vote of the majority must regulate the general conduct of affairs.

Colonel Bogoliubow inquires how the Commission understand the reservation in his powers—"après la clôture des travaux de la Commission?"

The Committee accepts it as referring to the vote of the majority as well as of the minority.

Colonel Bogoliubow observes, that in certain circumstances the President should put the question as to whether the voting should be open or secret.

The Commission agree to the principle of simple majorities and open voting, subject to these reservations.

The Commission agree that their proceedings shall be recorded in abridged Protocols.

Colonel Bogoliubow observes that in case of unanimity details need not be recorded; but, in case of a division, the opinions of the minority are to be given.

The Commission accepts.

The Turkish Delegate is requested to ascertain the cost of printing or lithographing the Protocols. About 50 to 100 copies will be needed.

Colonel Lemoine reads a telegram from the French Commissioner on the Servian Commission, inquiring whether they can proceed with the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian boundary.

Colonel Home informs the Commissioners that Her Majesty's Government have acceded to the delimitation of this boundary by the Servian Commission, and have authorized British Commissioner to proceed, subject to approval by Bulgarian Commission.

His Excellency the President is requested to inform the President of the Servian Commission that there will be no difficulty on the part of the Bulgarian Commission to their proposal.

The Commission agrees to commence their labours by the Roumano-Bulgarian boundary.

Colonel Lemoine points out that as the point of departure at Silistria is undetermined, it will be advisable to commence there.

The President remarks that the Sofia line is of greater importance, but in deference to the wish of the other Commissioners he withdraws his proposition.

The Commission agree to meet at Silistria on the 2nd November.

The President is requested to telegraph to the President of the Roumanian Government to inform them that the Commission will be at Silistria on the 2nd November, and to invite them to send a representative to accompany the Commission, to take cognizance of its labours, and, if necessary, to survey the frontier.

The Commission agree to adjourn until 1 P.M. on Wednesday, 23rd October, when the following orders of the day will be discussed:—

1. Mode of operations.
2. Principles to follow in the delimitation of the Roumano-Bulgarian boundary.

The Commission adjourns at 4 P.M.

(Signed) J. C. ARDAGH, *Captain, R.E.,*
British Delegate and Secretary.

October 21, 1878.

No. 34.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 24.)

My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, October* 24, 1878.

HIS Excellency Her Majesty's Ambassador having requested me to employ a certain portion of the staff at my disposal in obtaining information as to the state of the Russian army, its position, &c., also as to the state of the country generally, and the truth of certain rumours and statements made by the Russian authorities as to the existence of outrages of various kinds, I have, consequently, from time to time, detached officers who have furnished Reports on these subjects. As the surveying operations in the Dobrudscha will be of a very limited nature, I propose leaving Captain Murray and two sappers at the disposal of Sir Henry Layard.

I have charged the travelling expenses of these officers to the funds placed at my disposal for the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, and I have the honour to request your Lordship's approval and sanction for so doing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 35.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 25.)

My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, October* 24, 1878.

AS I am about to leave Constantinople *en route* for Silistria, I would venture to point out that I have received no instructions as to the disposal of the Staff during the winter months, that is to say, from the end of November to the beginning of May.

If your Lordship should approve of the suggestion submitted in my letter No. 17 of the 10th October, I beg to request that I may be so notified before the 20th November, when I hope to be again in Constantinople, in order that I may at once take steps to reduce the staff of servants, grooms, interpreter, &c., and place the stores of the Commission in safe custody.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 36.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, October* 24, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the substance of a cypher telegram that I despatched to your Lordship on the 22nd instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 36.

Substance of Telegram dispatched by Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury on the 22nd October, 1878.

THE Bulgarian Boundary Commission has met twice. Begins its work at Silistria on the 2nd November, 1878. Turkish Delegate named President at Constantinople. Fresh election for President when the Commission leaves.

The Commission, except the French officer, had no powers other than letters of credence from their Ambassadors to the Sublime Porte. Russian Ambassador specially reserved to the Russian Government the right of disapproving of the proceedings of the Commission if the Russian Commissioner was overruled by the majority; consequently, I have made a declaration reserving to the British Government similar rights. The majority will decide in all cases. Commission will report opinion of majority; opinion of minority will be entered on Protocols; and the Governments will deal with the matter subsequently.

Commission telegraphed to Servian Commission, authorizing them to go on with Servo-Bulgarian frontier, and to Roumanian Government, asking for Roumanians to survey. On the whole satisfactory. Protocol by messenger.

No. 37.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 70.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 21, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 67 of the 17th October, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter I have transmitted to Lord Donoughmore, stating my views as to the administration of the finances by the European Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 37.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to Lord Donoughmore.

Therapia, October 19, 1878.

My dear Lord Donoughmore,

THE Commission having elected you a member of the Committee for the administration of the finances, I think it will be well that I should place in writing my view of the part the British section of the Commission should take in these important duties.

It will be wise for you to bear in mind that the financial duties confided to the Commission are transitory, and for the benefit of all parties. I am sure that you and your colleagues will act on this principle, that you will recollect you represent the whole of the Commission, that your administration will be fair and impartial, and, knowing the constitution of the Committee, that there will be few occasions when you will differ. At the same time, in all reasonable matters, and, indeed, to a great extent when you can equitably do so, especially when brought in contact with the Russian administration, you should lean to the views of the Turkish Commissioner.

Eastern Roumelia is a Turkish province. The Protocol of the eighth Conference of Constantinople lays down that certain branches of the revenue are to be reserved to the Sultan; and the Treaty itself specially makes mention of the "accord" with the Sublime Porte as one of the conditions of the financial administration by the Commission.

Besides this, your Ottoman colleague has a thorough knowledge of the country, in which you and your French colleague are necessarily deficient. We are to hold the balance equally between all parties, except when the Treaty of Berlin tells us to incline it in favour of the Turk.

I have no doubt but that M. de Coutouly will share these views.

In all the arrangements to be made, you should bear in mind that the administration is purely provisional.

We cannot ignore the presence of the Russian army, nor the existence of a *de facto* Government, whatever we may think of its legal rights.

In dealing with the officials already appointed, and who are placed under your supervision, while tacitly aware of a state of things we cannot alter, you should take care not to commit yourself by any act to any principles or policy which might control the free action of the Commission in dealing with the future. Nothing done during the interregnum is to be erected into a precedent for the permanent system of finance the Commission is charged to elaborate.

The present state of things existing under Russian rule is essentially provisional, transitory, and of doubtful legality.

Nothing must be done by us, directly or indirectly, during our provisional administration, to give any pretext for permanency.

It is not necessary at all times to raise an argument on principle when the object is practically attained without it. But whenever anything comes before you which, even in a remote degree, touches on the principles and stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, it will be well to find some reason for deferring the discussion until we have had time to consult together, and, if necessary, to take the advice of some of our colleagues.

It may be attempted to infringe the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin in trifles. These you may perhaps be able to dispose of without any obvious effort. But in greater questions, such as the number of troops, the sale of the tithe, and the general expenses of the Government, it will be necessary to delay all discussion till we have had time for consultation, and, if necessary, for reference to the Secretary of State.

As the handling of finances is always a work of a very delicate nature, it will be well if, at the time you give your assent or dissent to any proposal, you should take a brief note of it, and enter it the same day in an official diary which can discuss while the subjects are fresh in your memory, and which can, when required, be sent home, or, at all events, remain as a record.

I urge this the more particularly on your attention, as I am convinced that a minute and continuous history of the financial action of the Commission is indispensable to answer criticism and avoid embarrassment.

As we shall be constantly together, it is unnecessary for me to go into further detail even if I wished to do so. Nearly everything depends on your mode of treating it, and must be left to your discretion.

But I have thought it right to place on record the views we both hold on this question, and which I believe will receive the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I remain, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 38.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 71.)

Therapia, October 21, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY morning Sir Henry Layard sent us a telegram from the Palace, saying that the Sultan would receive Lord Donoughmore and myself at 12.

His Imperial Majesty received us most graciously. He expressed his strong feeling of friendship for England, and said that he was glad to see us before starting on a mission which he hoped would restore peace to the unhappy population of Eastern Roumelia.

I told His Imperial Majesty that before leaving I had had the honour of an audience of Her Majesty the Queen, who was in good health, and that I was sure Her Majesty would be gratified to receive good news of His Imperial Majesty.

I also said that Her Majesty had selected Lord Donoughmore and myself for this mission, to a great extent, because we were respectively members of the two Houses of Parliament, and had therefore some practical experience of institutions in which the power of the Sovereign was made secure by the contentment of the people.

This object I was sure His Majesty desired for his subjects in Eastern Roumelia, and I hoped we should be able to establish his authority in that province on the bases I had mentioned.

He then alluded to the repatriation of the refugees. This, I said, was one of our earnest studies, and that we had not been a week here before Lord Donoughmore had gone to Philippopolis partly to examine this question on the spot. His Majesty then asked Lord Donoughmore some details of his journey, and when Lord Donoughmore

had given them replied that he had gone on a mission of mercy which would be recompensed by God.

He then told us that his wish was to keep to the policy of friendship and alliance with England which existed in the time of his father, and that he would do all in his power to further this object. But he said that we knew how great were the difficulties with which he had to contend.

I told him that I believed Her Majesty's Government were fully alive to these difficulties, and it was to remedy them that they had proposed reforms which I trusted His Imperial Majesty would soon accept. I added that Her Majesty's Government were anxious to do all they could for Turkey, but that if His Imperial Majesty had difficulties, so had they. His Imperial Majesty must have seen in the speeches of Lord Beaconsfield, of your Lordship, and Her Majesty's other Ministers, their desire to strengthen the authority of His Imperial Majesty, and their confidence in the views he personally entertained. But in a constitutional country like England it was necessary for Ministers to prove to the country the justice of what they did and proposed, and they could not now make efforts on behalf of Turkey without showing to their fellow-countrymen that the Sublime Porte was willing, in return, to accept their advice. Sir Henry Layard had been the unceasing friend and advocate of Turkey. Her Majesty's Government were already sending a financier of distinction to help in setting in order the finances of the country; but before they could do more it was essential that the reforms proposed should be definitively accepted.

His Imperial Majesty replied that no one was more really anxious for this than himself, and he had given orders that they should be put on the *ordre du jour* for the Council of Ministers then sitting, and that he hoped an affirmative answer would be given at once. He had that morning sent the Ambassador an assurance to that effect.

He then alluded to financial reforms. I said that a financial sub-Commission had been formed for Eastern Roumelia, consisting of a Turkish and a French Commissioner and of Lord Donoughmore.

The Sultan said that when talking of financial reforms he did not allude to those of the province where the Russians were in possession, who were not the friends of Turkey, and, he added, laughing, he did not think were, strictly speaking, the friends of England.

His Imperial Majesty went on to say that he was glad the financier was coming, as the first thing essential to the country was the withdrawal of the caimé. Without this nothing could be done. His Imperial Majesty was also most anxious, for the honour of his country, to settle the external debts; but the question of caimé was one which stood in the way of everything.

I replied that I hoped the financier, who, I heard, was a man of great ability, would give such advice as might be useful to His Imperial Majesty's Government. I was also convinced that when the Sublime Porte began to treat with the foreign creditors, the latter would not be too exacting in their demands on seeing a real desire to meet their claims in an equitable spirit.

I begged His Imperial Majesty to forgive me if I returned to the subject; but I could not urge too strongly the necessity of accepting the reforms as an indispensable preliminary to any further action on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

The Sultan again gave me a reassuring answer. He then returned to the question of the refugees, and I suggested that one point very much mixed up with it was that of the gendarmerie. I said there were several British officers doing nothing at Constantinople, and receiving large salaries, who strongly felt their want of occupation and their inability to earn their pay. Why not employ them to organize a gendarmerie, so as to be ready against the evacuation by the Russians? If something of the kind were not done, it would be a pretext, nay more, an excuse for the Russians to remain in the province.

The Sultan replied that it was intended to send the English officers into Anatolia. He fully agreed, however, in my suggestion, and would at once bring it before his Ministers.

I said that Lord Donoughmore, who was an Irish proprietor, had studied the organization of the Irish constabulary, which was generally considered a model for such forces, and he had drawn up a scheme adapting the constitution of that corps to Eastern Roumelia, which he would be glad to place at the disposal of the Porte.

His Imperial Majesty asked Lord Donoughmore some questions on the subject, and again said he would recommend the subject to the immediate consideration of his Government, and be glad of Lord Donoughmore's assistance. He also asked me to call

on Kâmeddin Pasha, wished us success on our journey, and expressed a desire to see us on our return.

The foregoing is, I think, a faithful record of a conversation which lasted nearly an hour, in which both Lord Donoughmore and myself were struck with the dignified courtesy and charm of manner of a Sovereign who is exposed to much misinterpretation, not to say calumny, and with his minute and enlightened knowledge of all questions connected with the public administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 39.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Pera, October 22, 1878.*

THE time has perhaps arrived when Her Majesty's Government may think it right to consider the duration of the Commission. Nearly one month has elapsed of the three given to it to prepare the new system. It may be possible to carry out in this short time that portion of its functions, but it is a question whether, on the completion of the Report, the functions of the Commission come to an end.

By Article XIX of the Treaty the Commission is charged with the administration of the finances, "jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation." This might indicate that whatever control the Commission may exercise through administering the finances shall continue until the formation of the new Government, so that the finances of the province should never be restored to Russian hands.

Some of my colleagues think it essential the Commission should be present in the province during the elections which must follow the completion of the new system. I am inclined to the same opinion; and if such be the view of Her Majesty's Government, we might endeavour to introduce into our Report some transitory clauses conferring on the Commission the right, with the Porte, to superintend the elections.

I should be glad to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government on this subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—Should your Lordship be of this opinion, it might perhaps be desirable that an understanding should be come to with the other Powers to the effect that as soon as the Report is ready for promulgation, the Governor-General is to be named, and that the elections are to ensue during the presence of the Commission at Philippopolis, and in concert with it.

H. D. W.

No. 40.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(Separate and Confidential.)
My Lord, *Pera, October 22, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatches on the subject of the civil government of Eastern Roumelia during the labours of the Commission, and of the appointment of a Turkish Governor-General, I should venture to suggest to your Lordship that it might be well to leave the latter question for the moment in abeyance. The Russian authorities are evidently determined to resist such a nomination. If carried out, they are in a position to make it nugatory; and, in the absence of any practical result, the addition of a fresh complication to the many already existing would appear of doubtful expediency.

Her Majesty's Government have done their part in reserving the question. The responsibility of refusing the nomination rests with the Russians. They, on the other hand, seem more inclined than before—whatever may be their ulterior aim—to facilitate the labours of the Commission within the narrow limits which admit of no

doubt. Prince Dondoukoff is about to leave Philippopolis for Sofia. The Turkish Commissioner for Bulgaria has been invited to repair to his post. In Eastern Roumelia, the right of the Commission to administer the finances has been admitted, and the Russian Commissioners are pressing on the discussion of the new institutions for that province. I would therefore venture to submit that it might be wise to defer the nomination of a Governor-General till after the Commission has made its Report, when the opposition to his appointment would be a clear and indisputable violation of the Treaty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 41.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 73.) [B.B.]

Pera, October 24, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the 4th Protocol of the Commission, reporting the proceedings at the meeting of the 12th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—The office copy cannot be sent by this occasion, M. Isvolsky, the Russian Secretary, who must certify it, having left for Philippopolis.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Protocole No. 4.—*Séance du* 30 Septembre / 12 Octobre, 1878 (15 *Cheval* 1295), *au Konak d'Abro Effendi, à Thérapia.*

Présidence de son Excellence Assim Pacha.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring, et
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, et
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew, et
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à une heure.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance est lu par M. Rozet.

Le Prince Tzeretelew voudrait qu'il fut bien entendu que la déclaration faite le 7 Octobre par Sir Henry Drummond Wolff à la suite du discours de M. Vernoni, n'engage en rien l'opinion de la Commission.

Le Premier Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique répond que sa déclaration exprimait son opinion personnelle et développait les raisons qui lui avaient fait accepter l'amendement du Délégué d'Italie.

Sous réserve de ces observations le Protocole est adopté.

Abro Effendi demande la parole et donne lecture de la motion suivante dont il dépose deux exemplaires sur le bureau:

"*Motion.*

"Un grand nombre d'habitants de la Roumélie Orientale ont été dispersés à la suite des derniers événements, et souffrent cruellement de cet exil qui les prive de la jouissance de leurs biens et les réduit à un état de détresse malheureusement trop notoire pour avoir besoin d'être décrit. Si ces malheureux ne sont pas rapatriés avant la mauvaise saison, ils n'auront échappé aux désastres qui ont affligé leur pays que pour succomber à la misère, à la maladie, et à la faim.

"La Commission de la Roumélie Orientale, étant appelée à assurer à cette province, par une organisation administrative nouvelle, la paix et la prospérité intérieure, ne saurait rester indifférente au sort de ceux de ses habitants qui sont les plus dignes d'intérêt.

"En conséquence les Commissaires Ottomans ont l'honneur de proposer que la Commission inaugure ses travaux par un acte d'humanité, en prenant toutes les mesures qu'elle croira propres à hâter le rapatriement des réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale sans distinction de race ou de religion, et à leur assurer à leur rentrée dans leurs foyers la sécurité de leur personne et de leurs biens."

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur la motion du Prince Tzeretelew tendant à prier les Commissaires Ottomans de vouloir bien communiquer à la Commission des informations propres à la renseigner sur la partie de sa tâche visée dans l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie lit la réponse suivante à la motion de son collègue de Russie:

"En réponse à la motion présentée par le Prince Tzeretelew dans la séance du 7 Octobre relativement à l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, les Commissaires Ottomans ont l'honneur de rappeler qu'aux termes du dernier paragraphe de cet Article la Commission n'aura à s'occuper de cette partie de sa tâche que lorsque la Sublime Porte prendra son avis sur les nouveaux règlements à appliquer aux autres provinces de la Turquie d'Europe.

"La connaissance et l'examen des projets de règlements n'appartiennent donc pas à la Commission tant qu'ils n'auront pas été élaborés suivant les règles tracées par l'Article XXIII et adoptés par la Sublime Porte. C'est alors seulement et avant de mettre ces règlements à exécution que le Gouvernement Impérial en saisira la Commission et sollicitera son avis."

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne voit pas clairement en quoi les objections développées par MM. les Commissaires Ottomans ont trait à l'objet de sa motion.

La Commission ne doit, il est vrai, se prononcer sur les différents règlements d'administration à élaborer dans les provinces qu'au moment où la Sublime Porte lui demandera son avis; mais les Commissaires de Russie ne considèrent pas moins comme utile de provoquer sans retard la communication de renseignements sur l'état actuel de la question soulevée: "La tâche imposée aux Délégués des Puissances par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin est, dit le Prince Tzeretelew, assez difficile pour qu'il soit permis d'indiquer la nécessité de s'y préparer à l'avance. Il serait très-désirable que l'Assemblée fut mise au courant de ce qui a été fait jusqu'ici par la Sublime Porte en vue de l'élaboration des divers règlements provinciaux, et renseignée en même temps sur l'époque probable où ils pourront être soumis à son examen."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff estime que la motion du Deuxième Commissaire de Russie est prématurée. La Sublime Porte est tenue de prendre l'avis de la Commission "avant de promulguer les actes destinés à mettre en vigueur" les règlements visés par l'Article XXIII. La Sublime Porte doit charger de l'élaboration de ces règlements des Commissions Spéciales, c'est à elle seule à choisir le moment

où la Commission sera consultée, et toute tentative de fixer ce moment à l'avance serait une ingérence de la Réunion dans une question qui regarde le Gouvernement Ottoman seul.

Le Colonel Schepelew ne s'explique pas comment le fait de recueillir des informations propres à éclairer la Commission sur la tâche qui lui incombe serait une immixtion dans les affaires intérieures de la Turquie. Pour sa part, il considérerait comme fort utile, dans l'intérêt des travaux de la Réunion, de savoir de la Sublime Porte a déjà nommé les Commissions Spéciales ou si elle se borne à avoir l'intention de les nommer.

M. de Coutouly considère que le Traité de Berlin ne fixe pas, à proprement parler, de terme absolu aux travaux de la Commission. L'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale devant servir de modèle à celle des autres provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, et être déterminée dans le délai de trois mois l'Assemblée doit en ce moment se consacrer exclusivement à cette œuvre pour la mener sans retard à bonne fin. La Commission, d'après lui, commettrait une imprudence si elle compliquait ses travaux en s'occupant dès leur début de questions qui ne pourront lui être directement soumises que beaucoup plus tard.

Abro Effendi pense que la Commission n'ayant qu'une voix consultative quant aux règlements dont il s'agit, n'a pas qualité pour demander à la Sublime Porte de lui communiquer des documents à ce sujet et de la renseigner sur les intentions du Gouvernement Ottoman. En signant le Traité de Berlin la Sublime Porte s'est engagée à former dans les provinces des Commissions Spéciales, mais elle ne doit prendre l'avis de la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale qu'au moment où les assemblées locales susmentionnées auront achevé leurs travaux, et où les projets ainsi élaborés seront prêts à être promulgués après avoir été examinés par la Sublime Porte. La Réunion ne peut jusque là s'occuper en quoi que ce soit de cette affaire.

"Il me semble," dit le *Prince Tzeretelew*, "que M. le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie a mal interprété ma pensée. Je ne propose pas de demander à la Sublime Porte des documents ou des matériaux pouvant servir à notre travail. Je prie simplement nos collègues Ottomans de vouloir bien communiquer à la Réunion des renseignements propres à l'éclairer sur une partie importante de sa tâche. Je ne crois pas que les Plénipotentiaires réunis à Berlin aient voulu limiter le rôle de la Commission à émettre un avis purement théorique. Pour pouvoir nous prononcer, et nous aurons à le faire, il faut recueillir des données et nous préparer d'avance.

"Le Traité de Berlin fixe la durée de notre existence à trois mois. Notre mandat prendra fin avec la signature du dernier Protocole. Mais le Traité de Berlin ne prévoit pas le cas où la Sublime Porte ne nous aurait pas présenté d'ici à la fin de ces trois mois les règlements d'administration provinciale visés par l'Article XXIII; il ne stipule pas non plus que la Commission devra prolonger son existence jusqu'à la présentation de ces règlements. Ces diverses considérations nous obligent à nous occuper dès à présent de l'objet de ma motion, et à demander à la Sublime Porte ce qu'elle a déjà fait."

M. de Kallay n'admet pas l'utilité de réunir les informations demandées par MM. les Commissaires de Russie: les Délégués pourront se renseigner individuellement; mais collectivement ils ne sont appelés qu'à émettre leur avis théorique sur des règlements tout prêts.

Quant à savoir si l'existence de la Commission peut être prolongée, les Gouvernements ont seuls qualité pour décider cette question.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie adhère en conséquence à la déclaration d'Abro Effendi, et voudrait que l'incident fut clos.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff ne peut partager l'opinion du Prince Tzeretelew sur la durée de la Commission. L'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin dit seulement: "Cette Commission aura à déterminer dans un délai de trois mois les pouvoirs et les attributions du Gouverneur-Général, ainsi que le régime," &c.; mais ne fixe pas la durée de la Commission. L'Article XIX charge la Commission "d'administrer d'accord avec la Sublime Porte les finances de la province jusqu'à l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation." Or, l'élaboration d'un projet déterminant les attributions du Gouverneur et le régime du pays n'est pas encore l'achèvement de l'organisation de ce pays.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique croit d'ailleurs, comme son collègue

d'Autriche-Hongrie, que la question de la durée de la Commission sort de la compétence des Délégués.

M. de Coutouly pense que si l'on se perd dans des interprétations scolastiques des termes du Traité de Berlin, le débat se prolongera sans aucune utilité.

Il serait aisé d'entamer une discussion subtile sur la valeur exacte du verbe "déterminer" qui figure dans l'Article XVIII, mais cela ne servirait qu'à retarder les travaux sérieux. Peut-être pourrait-on prouver qu'en prescrivant à la Commission de déterminer le régime administratif de la Roumélie Orientale dans un délai de trois mois, le Congrès a voulu simplement nous ordonner d'arrêter dans ce délai les lignes fondamentales de la nouvelle organisation; mais on pourrait soutenir aussi, par contre, que "déterminer" équivaut à "parachever," et le débat s'éterniserait ainsi. La Réunion n'a pas à rechercher aujourd'hui à quelle époque elle cessera d'exister. Le seul devoir que l'Article XVIII lui impose clairement est de faire son possible pour déterminer le régime de la Roumélie Orientale dans le délai très-court de trois mois, et par conséquent d'écarter tout débat qui risquerait de retarder l'achèvement de sa tâche.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff peut citer un fait à l'appui de ce qu'il vient d'être dit sur la durée encore indéterminée de la Commission. Le Gouvernement Anglais avait pensé d'abord que les trois mois dont parle le Traité de Berlin devaient commencer à l'échange des ratifications du Traité; depuis il a jugé bon de consulter à ce sujet les autres Gouvernements, et c'est le Gouvernement Russe lui-même qui a insisté pour que la question fût ajournée. Il en résulte qu'à l'avenir les Puissances auront également à s'entendre sur l'interprétation de tout ce qui aura trait à la durée des travaux de la Commission.

Le Prince Tzeretelew fait observer à la Réunion que la question de la durée de la Commission n'a surgi qu'incidemment. Il avait proposé de réunir certaines informations nécessaires à l'Assemblée. Le jour où les règlements élaborés par les Commissions provinciales seront soumis à la Commission cette dernière ne devrait pas en être réduite à ajourner son avis, faute de s'être préparée à l'avance. A ce point de vue, le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie aimerait, par exemple, à savoir quel sera le premier règlement dont la Commission devra s'occuper.

M. de Braunschweig désirerait vivement que le Gouvernement Ottoman put fournir à la Réunion les informations demandées par MM. les Commissaires de Russie. Il aurait cru de l'intérêt même de la Sublime Porte de tenir au courant des travaux visés par l'Article XXIII une Commission qu'elle devra consulter. Mais le Traité de Berlin ne donnant à la Commission aucun moyen d'obtenir des renseignements si la Sublime Porte les lui refuse, et les Commissaires de Turquie paraissant à peu près décidés à ne pas fournir les éclaircissements qui leur sont demandés, le Commissaire d'Allemagne hésite à croire que la motion des Délégués Russes, même votée par la Commission, puisse avoir un résultat pratique. Il prie en conséquence le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie de vouloir bien ajourner ou même retirer sa motion.

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne voit pas pourquoi, sans avoir même l'intention de tracer une ligne de conduite aux Commissaires de Turquie, on ne pourrait pas les prier de vouloir bien faire connaître quelles sont les dispositions du Gouvernement Ottoman relativement à la question visée par l'Article XXIII, à quelle époque les règlements seront soumis à la Commission et lequel sera présenté le premier.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff pense les Ambassades ont seules qualité pour provoquer des explications de ce genre.

M. de Kallay ne songe pas à demander aux Commissaires Ottomans quel règlement doit être soumis le premier à la Réunion, car cela ne dépend pas de la Sublime Porte, mais des Commissions provinciales elles-mêmes: "Tous les Commissaires n'attacheront pas, dit-il, le même intérêt aux différents règlements. La Commission n'est appelée en somme qu'à donner son avis sur les projets qui lui seront communiqués; quant à savoir si la Sublime Porte les lui soumettra ou non, cela ne regarde que les Gouvernements."

M. Vernoni fait remarquer à son collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie que les Commissions Spéciales à nommer par la Sublime Porte ne seront pas indépendantes, mais composées sans doute en grande partie de fonctionnaires, suivant la coutume du pays: c'est donc le Gouvernement Ottoman qu'il faut interroger pour savoir si elles sont déjà formées et si elles ont commencé leurs travaux.

M. de Coutouly dit que la divergence d'opinions qui s'est produite semble être née d'un malentendu et demande à MM. les Commissaires de Russie d'expliquer

clairement s'ils veulent se borner à prier leurs collègues Ottomans de leur donner une information, ou s'ils veulent proposer une motion qui, soumise au vote de la Commission, courrait le risque d'être rejetée? Dans le premier cas, il croirait exprimer les désirs de la majorité en priant les Délégués Russes de vouloir bien retirer leur motion et la remplacer par une simple question à l'adresse de leurs collègues Ottomans.

Le Prince Tzeretelew déclare que s'il s'agit seulement d'une question de forme, les Commissaires de Russie sont tout disposés à transformer leur motion en une interrogation à l'adresse de leurs collègues de Turquie. Il consent par conséquent à se borner à demander à ceux-ci s'ils sont prêts à fournir à la Commission les renseignements susceptibles d'éclairer les Représentants des Puissances sur la partie de leur tâche déterminée par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Abro Effendi répète qu'il ne voit pas la nécessité de réunir de telles informations avant l'achèvement de l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale. La Commission a un mandat spécial auquel les Commissaires Ottomans attachent la plus grande importance, et elle ne peut rien entreprendre ou s'occuper de questions secondaires sans avoir tout d'abord donné un commencement d'exécution à ce mandat.

Le Prince Tzeretelew assure que les Commissaires de Russie attachent tout autant d'importance que leurs collègues de Turquie à l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale; mais le sort des autres provinces ne leur tient pas moins à cœur, et ils voudraient savoir dès à présent si les Commissaires Ottomans persistent à refuser de fournir à la Commission les renseignements demandés.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie tient d'ailleurs à constater qu'en interrogeant les Délégués Ottomans, il agit exactement comme Sir H. Drummond Wolff qui, dans une séance précédente, leur a demandé si la Sublime Porte avait l'intention de nommer prochainement le Gouverneur-Général et les officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie en Roumélie Orientale.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique estime que la question posée par lui aux Représentants de la Sublime Porte ne sortait en rien du mandat de la Commission; elle ne peut être assimilée à celle du Prince Tzeretelew, qui pour le moment ne se rattache en rien aux travaux de la Réunion.

Le Prince Tzeretelew répète qu'il a déjà retiré sa motion pour être agréable au Commissaire adjoint de France et qu'il prie simplement les Délégués Ottomans de déclarer s'ils sont disposés à fournir à la Réunion les renseignements demandés.

Il ajoute que, contrairement à l'opinion de son collègue Anglais, la question posée par les Commissaires Russes lui paraît aussi légitime que celle de Sir H. Drummond Wolff, à laquelle les Commissaires de Turquie n'ont pas hésité à répondre.

Ses Excellences Assim Pacha et Abro Effendi répondent qu'ayant été délégués spécialement pour élaborer d'accord avec les Représentants des Puissances l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, ils se consultèrent comme incompétents pour s'occuper au sein de la Commission de toutes les matières concernant les autres provinces de l'Empire.

Le Prince Tzeretelew prend acte de cette réponse qui implique un refus de fournir à la Commission, même à titre purement officieux, les renseignements demandés aux Délégués Ottomans par leurs collègues de Russie.

L'ordre du jour appelle la question du départ pour Philippopoli.

Après une courte discussion la Commission, sur la proposition de Sir H. Drummond Wolff, décide qu'elle fixera son départ pour Philippopoli quand elle aura pris connaissance du rapport de ses Délégues auprès de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, examiné les propositions faites par cet établissement, et épuisé l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance.

L'ordre du jour appelle la lecture du rapport que doivent présenter M. Vernoni et Abro Effendi sur les résultats de leurs négociations avec la Banque Ottomane.

Les deux Délégués de la Commission déposent sur le Bureau un projet pour l'organisation des finances de la Roumélie Orientale qui leur a été soumis par le Directeur de la Banque Impériale Ottomane. M. Isvolsky donne lecture de ce document qui sera imprimé, distribué, et annexé au Protocole de la séance.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la cinquième séance fixée au Jeudi, 17 Octobre:—

1. La motion d'Abro Effendi tendant au prompt rapatriement des émigrés de la Roumélie Orientale.

2. La discussion des propositions de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

La séance est levée à 4 heures du soir.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original:
(Signé) A. ROZET.
A. ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Annexe au Protocole No. 4.

Projet pour l'Organisation des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale présenté par la Banque Impériale Ottomane aux Délégués de la Commission Européenne, M. Vernoni et Abro Effendi.

LA Banque Impériale Ottomane sera chargée par la Commission Européenne des fonctions suivantes:—

1. La répartition des impôts;
2. La perception des revenus;
3. Le paiement des dépenses;
4. La tenue des comptes des revenus et des dépenses.

I.—*Répartition des Impôts.*

La Banque nommera, pour chaque caza de la province, un corps de fonctionnaires et d'employés qui seront chargés de procéder à la répartition des impôts.

Pour chaque caza il y aura un fonctionnaire-en-chef chargé de l'assiette de l'impôt avec des adjoints dont le nombre variera suivant l'étendu du caza. Des informations ont été demandées à ce sujet.

Sous la direction des fonctionnaires-en-chef, les adjoints feront des tournées périodiques dans les communes et districts qui leur seront respectivement assignés et, conjointement avec les Moukhtars des Communes ou les Conseils des districts, ils prépareront des listes de répartition sur lesquelles le montant de l'impôt dû par chaque contribuable sera enregistré. Des copies de ces listes seront affichées à l'entrée des églises et des mosquées dans les villages ou districts respectifs pour que chaque contribuable puisse, par comparaison, constater que la taxe qui lui est imposée n'est pas proportionnellement supérieure à celle fixée pour son voisin.

Il sera nommé quatre Inspecteurs qui auront pour mission de visiter les différents districts de la province, après que la répartition aura été complétée, d'entendre les plaintes des contribuables et d'adresser à l'établissement central les observations qu'ils se considéreront fondés à faire.

Les registres de la répartition, dès qu'elle sera terminée, seront soumis à l'approbation de la Commission.

Il y aura des registres séparés pour chaque catégorie d'impôt.

II.—*Perception des Revenus.*

Pour la perception des revenus il y aura un corps de fonctionnaires absolument distinct de ceux chargés de la répartition de l'impôt.

Chaque caza sera divisé en un certain nombre de districts, et des copies des registres de répartition par chaque district seront remises entre les mains du Receveur chargé de la perception du revenu de ce district.

Le Receveur fera ses tournées à des époques déterminées, et les Moukhta.' des communes et des villages ou les autres agents chargés de ce service seront tenus de remettre au Receveur le montant dû par ces communes ou villages, et ils seront

rendus responsables de toute différence. Dans le cas de force majeure, tel que la destruction complète de la récolte par tempête ou autre cause, le Receveur en rendra immédiatement compte à l'établissement central de la Banque.

L'établissement central aura, de temps en temps, à faire connaître à la Commission le montant des arriérés, les raisons qui ont occasionné ces arriérés, et à lui demander ses instructions à cet égard.

Les Receveurs auront à certaines époques à payer le montant de leurs recettes à la Banque ou à ses agents, et ces sommes seront immédiatement portées au crédit du compte spécial de la province, tenu à la Banque.

Pour chaque caza, il faudra : employés ; Receveurs.

Une liste plus exacte des fonctionnaires et employés qui auraient à être nommés pour la répartition et la perception des impôts sera fournie aussitôt que les informations nécessaires à cet égard auront pu être obtenues.

Les impôts à la perception desquels les propositions qui précèdent se réfèrent comprennent les dîmes, le "verghi," les "agnams" (impôt sur les moutons), la taxe sur les porcs et le "bédel" (exemption du service militaire). Il y a d'autres sources de revenu qui sont provisoirement placées sous le contrôle de la Commission Européenne et qui feront ultérieurement retour au Gouvernement central ; ce sont les revenus qui proviennent des Douanes, des tabacs, des spiritueux, de la poste, et des télégraphes.

Il y a aussi d'autres sources de revenus, telles que les salines, les forêts et les tchifliks, mais l'administration de ces deux catégories de revenus restera, pour le moment, entre les mains de l'administration actuelle.

La Banque nommera des Receveurs qui auront à percevoir les recettes provenant de cette catégorie de revenus et à les transmettre à la Banque pour être portées par elle au crédit du compte courrant de la province.

Des inspecteurs seront nommés avec mission de contrôler la fidèle exécution des règlements établis et de faire des rapports à ce sujet.

La Banque est prête à suggérer de nombreuses améliorations à introduire dans le mode de fixer et de percevoir les impôts ; mais au commencement et jusqu'à ce qu'on ait acquis plus d'expérience, il sera nécessaire d'adopter le système actuel et de n'introduire des réformes que graduellement.

III.—*Payement des Dépenses.*

La Commission Européenne remettra à la Banque une copie du budget des dépenses de la province avec une liste des noms des personnes autorisées à fournir sur la Banque pour faire face aux dépenses pour le service de cette province.

Les personnes ainsi autorisées fourniront des mandats sur la Banque pour les payements qu'elles auront à faire, et elles seront responsables vis-à-vis de la Commission des dépenses faites.

La Banque payera ces mandats sur les fonds existants au crédit du compte spécial de la province.

A la fin de chaque mois, la Banque fournira à la Commission un compte détaillé, par catégorie des dépenses, des payements effectués pour ces services, avec les pièces justificatives. Ce compte sera soumis à la stricte vérification d'un fonctionnaire spécialement nommé par la Commission pour cet objet. Avec ce compte la Banque remettra mensuellement un compte-courant, indiquant le montant des recettes et des payements effectués durant le mois écoulé et donnant le solde existant au crédit de la province.

IV.—*Comptes des Revenus et des Dépenses.*

La Banque établira un département séparé qui sera exclusivement chargé de la tenue des comptes de la province, avec un système de livres spécialement adaptés à l'enregistrement des revenus et des dépenses de la province.

Il sera tenu, pour chaque nature de revenus, des livres dans lesquels les recettes journalières seront inscrites ; de ces livres, ces recettes seront également portées dans les registres de répartition, de manière à montrer clairement les montants qui restent à percevoir.

De pareils livres seront tenus pour l'enregistrement des dépenses faites par les différents services.

C'est au moyen de ces livres de recettes et payements que sera préparé le compte mensuel qui est à remettre à la Commission, aux termes de l'Article précédent.

Le seul compte qui entrera dans la comptabilité générale de la Banque sera le compte-courant de la province.

La Banque sera également chargée de la confection du budget annuel des recettes et dépenses, qui sera soumis à la Commission. Les données recueillies par la Banque, ainsi que les renseignements qui seront donnés par les fonctionnaires exécutifs de la province, fourniront les éléments nécessaires à ce travail.

En acceptant les risques et la responsabilité de diriger ces services, la Banque n'a pas en vue de rechercher de grands profits. Un arrangement juste, pour la Banque, serait d'être remboursée des dépenses faites pour la direction de ces services, avec une commission de $\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent sur les recettes et de $\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent sur les payements alloués à titre de dédommagement pour le travail, les risques, et la responsabilité qui sont les conséquences naturelles de l'accomplissement de transactions de cette importance.

(Signé) M. H. FOSTER.

Le 11 Octobre, 1878.

No. 42.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 207. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, October 22, 1878.*

DURING the last six weeks it has been constantly asserted by enemies of the persons now in power in Roumania that these had entered into fresh secret engagements with Russia, the object of which was no other than to enable that Power to march in future through the Dobrudscha.

The Government here has repeatedly denied the accuracy of this assertion.

About ten days ago it became known that negotiations were in progress for the purpose of settling the manner in which the new territory was to be surrendered by the Russians to Roumania.

It was generally expected that the Roumanian forces would be able to occupy their new acquisition shortly, as I had the honour to report to your Lordship.

The persons working here in the Russian interest were very sanguine that the desire of the Roumanian Government to eschew fresh difficulties with Russia would induce them to make some agreement with General Nikitine, who has full powers for the purpose, so as to obtain at once possession of the Dobrudscha, by simply substituting a Roumanian for a Russian garrison there.

It was even suggested that no regular Convention need be concluded, but that General Nikitine might communicate by a note the manner in which the Russians would march through Roumanian territory in future, and specifying the routes of which they desire to avail themselves for their army.

It was thought that this Government would consent to express in their reply satisfaction with such an arrangement, and that having done so they could enter the Dobrudscha at once.

For my part, I cannot quite make out the object Russia has in all these intrigues here, but I have no possible doubt of their existence.

Roumania, in the meantime, applied to Prince Bismarck, as President of the Congress, asking to be allowed to take possession of its new territory.

The majority of the Ministers decided that it is not the interest of this country to receive the Dobrudscha from Russia, but that their best title to its possession is the Congress Treaty, and that they cannot depart one iota from the stipulations of Article XXII of the Treaty, allowing the Russians right of passage for one year.

This has been repeated to me by four different Ministers, one of these being favourable to some private agreement with Russia, the extent of which he did not exactly mention.

Immense importance is attached here to a satisfactory settlement of the Roumano-Bulgarian boundary, of which at last there appears to be some prospect.

If the views adopted by your Lordship and by the French Government as regards that boundary, and with which I have become acquainted from a perusal of the correspondence with Colonel Home, inclosed in your Lordship's No 54, Political, of the 17th October last, should fortunately prevail, this Government will have every reason to be satisfied at not having listened to the insinuating suggestions of Russia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 43.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 208. Political.)

Bucharest, October 22, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Roumania has addressed a Circular to his Agents representing this country at foreign Courts recapitulating the resolutions adopted by both Chambers in their late extraordinary legislative Session, and renewing, in stronger terms than he had done hitherto, the assurance that the question of religious disabilities would be dealt with constitutionally.

"Enfin, à l'égard des principes d'égalité inscrits dans l'acte de Berlin, le Gouvernement et la nation, par l'organe des Corps Législatifs, se sont engagés à réviser constitutionnellement le régime intérieur et à y introduire les modifications voulues en les appropriant à la situation locale."

Your Lordship will probably be put in possession of a copy of this Circular, dated the $\frac{4}{16}$th instant, through the Roumanian Agent at Paris, and I have so frequently referred to this matter in my previous despatches that I have nothing to add to what I had the honour to state on the 19th instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 44.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

[Not for B.B.]

(No. 210. Political. Secret.)

Bucharest, October 26, 1878.

My Lord,

OWING to the want of a proper understanding between Russia and Roumania on the subject of the terms on which the new territory on the other side of the Danube was to be surrendered by the former to the latter, the details of which have not transpired, the entrance of the troops from here into the Dobrudscha has been delayed.

It appears that this Government is desirous to see the new boundary settled first. The Commission intrusted with that important task is to commence its work on the 2nd or 3rd proximo at Silistria.

Most of the Powers represented on that Commission, not only the western kingdoms, but the Empires of Austria and Turkey as well as Italy, have a common interest to secure to Roumania a satisfactory boundary on the side of Bulgaria, the best that can be given her within the conditions prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin. The town of Silistria, of course, is situated beyond the limits prescribed by that Treaty, and this I have repeatedly told the Ministers here.

A new confidential Circular has been drawn up yesterday for transmission to the Great Powers, in which some of the assertions of the Russian Plenipotentiaries at the Congress as regards the Dobrudscha are disputed. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it, with the request that it may be considered as a strictly secret document, and not for publication.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 44.

Circular addressed to Roumanian Agents abroad.

(Confidentielle.)

Bucarest, le $\frac{14}{26}$ Octobre, 1878.

Monsieur,

A confronter certaines assertions de MM. les Plénipotentiaires de Russie au Congrès à Berlin avec les données réelles relatives à la superficie des provinces de Bessarabie et de Dobroudja, et avec les Tableaux statistiques dressés pour les autorités Russes elles-mêmes dans cette dernière région, il est aisé de constater que MM. les Plénipotentiaires de Russie ont fondé sur des informations inexactes l'argumentation destinée à établir les avantages résultant pour la Roumanie de l'accession de la Dobroudja.

Dans la séance du 29 Juin, 1878 (Protocole No. 9), le Prince Gortchakow a observé:—

"Il a été stipulé en faveur de la Roumanie des annexions éventuelles qui augmenteraient son territoire dans la proportion de 3,500 kilomètres carrés en étendu, de 80,000 âmes comme population, comparativement à ce qu'elle auraient à céder."

Examinons si ces assertions correspondent exactement à la réalité. La bonne foi nous oblige à signaler que le Prince Gortchacow, en parlant de 3,500 kilomètres comme augmentation de territoire, est resté au-dessous du chiffre vrai. En effet, la Bessarabie Roumaine compte 9,125 kilomètres carrés, le Delta, 2,812 kilomètres, et la Dobroudja, 12,180 kilomètres, à condition que la ligne droite fixée par le Congrès de Mangalia à Silistrie soit rigoureusement respectée. Mais la richesse acquise est-elle équivalente à la richesse perdue? Loin de là: on voit bien en Bessarabie comme en Dobroudja de vastes surfaces liquides; mais ce sont en Bessarabie des étangs et des lacs d'eau douce, abondamment poissonneux, sur une étendue de 1,000 kilomètres carrés, tandis qu'avec la Dobroudja la Roumanie acquiert environ 4,500 kilomètres de marais absolument improductifs et de lacs salés.

En outre, les villes et villages de la Bessarabie sont prospères, organisés, pourvus d'édifices publics, au lieu que dans la Dobroudja la misère a été portée à son comble par la dévastation, durant la guerre, des propriétés Musulmans. A supposer que les Turcs et Tatares, presque tous expulsés au début des hostilités, reviennent pour rentrer dans leurs biens, il trouveront à Medjidié quarante maisons encore debout sur 800, partout ailleurs des cendres.

Etudions maintenant la question de la population.

Le Tableau statistique ci-annexé, dressé par les autorités Russes au mois d'Août dernier, porte à 77,880 le chiffre de la population du Sandjak de Tultcha. En ajoutant quelques milliers d'habitants pour la ville de Mangalia et la bande de terrain qui s'étend depuis Rassova jusqu'à Mangalia, on obtient un total approximatif de 85,000 à 90,000 habitants.

Comparons avec ces chiffres le montant de la population des trois districts de la Bessarabie détachés de la Roumanie.

Le recensement de 1860 accuse dans la Bessarabie Roumaine 138,521 habitants. C'est encore rester au-dessous de la réalité que d'augmenter ce chiffre de 10 pour cent pour une période de dix-huit ans.

Le nombre des habitants de la Bessarabie se trouve atteindre ainsi 152,373, minimum. La différence des citoyens Roumains que nous perdons à ceux que nous acquérons est donc de 65,000 à 70,000.

Une perte aussi considérable serait partout sensible. Elle le sera plus qu'ailleurs dans une province où la population n'a, sauf les villes, aucune densité, et où tout est à créer par la main-d'œuvre.

Je crois de mon devoir, M. , de vous fournir ces rapides indications, topographiques et statistiques, afin que vous puissiez en tirer les arguments qu'elles comportent dans vos entretiens au sujet des travaux de la Commission Européenne de Délimitation, appelée à se constituer le 2 du mois prochain.

Vous voudrez bien, en consultant nos dépêches antérieures, appeler l'attention du Cabinet sur la gravité du dommage que subirait la Roumanie si l'affaiblissement de sa population n'était pas plus largement compensé.

Vous solliciterez de nouveau de sa haute équité que son Représentant au sein de la Commission Européenne ait instruction.

1. De maintenir rigoureusement à la ligne à tracer entre Mangalia et Silistrie la rectitude stipulée par l'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin.

2. De demander que le point d'attache de cette ligne sur le Danube soit transporté l'est à l'ouest de Silistrie.

Veuillez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 44.

STATISTICS of the Population of the Sandjak of Toultcha, collected by the Russian Authorities, August 1878.

No.	Name of the District.	Men.	Women.	Total.
1	Town of Toultcha	4,557	4,307	8,864
2	District of Toultcha	7,692	6,920	14,612
3	,, Matchin	5,883	5,356	11,238
4	,, Kustendjeh	..	..	4,920
5	,, Medjidieh	1,343	1,249	2,593
6	,, Hirsova-Chernavoda ..	4,408	4,270	8,687
7	,, Sulina	2,045	1,670	3,721
8	,, Babadagh	12,177	11,059	23,236
		38,106	34,845	778,80

N.B.—If to this is further added the population of Mangalia, which according to the Turkish statistics of 1875 amounts to 6,000 souls, the present population of the Dobrudscha will not exceed 84,000.

No. 45.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 762. Confidential.)

Vienna, October 23, 1878.

My Lord,

M. BALATCHANO, the Roumanian Minister, spoke to me to-day with much anxiety about the future prospects of his country. Russia was, he says, exerting a strong pressure at Bucharest to induce his Government to conclude a military Convention allowing the passage of her troops through the Principalities for a period of two years, commencing from next May, up to which time it is secured to her by the Treaty of Berlin; and it was, he added, ascertained as certain that it was determined at St. Petersburgh that the occupying army, instead of being reduced to the prescribed 50,000 men, was not to be reduced below 170,000 men.

There was, he considered, irresistible evidence that Russia had no intention of executing the Treaty, but was resolved to recommence the attempted destruction of the Turkish Empire, and he had great apprehensions of his own country being involved in the ruin.

In M. Balatchano's opinion, the danger to Roumania is greatly increased by the acquisition of the Dobrudscha. She could not withstand the decision of Europe for the cession of Bessarabia, but she could not have been compelled to accept the onerous annexation of the new territory, which will add so much to her weakness.

With respect to the Russian force at present south of the Balkans, Baron Orczy mentioned to me this afternoon that, according to the information of the Austrian Government, it amounts at this moment to fully 200,000 men.

I remarked that we were now within ten days of the time when more than 50,000 men could not be kept without a violation of the Treaty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 46.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 764.)

Vienna, October 27, 1878.

My Lord,

A JEWISH gentleman of very influential position in the financial world of Vienna has expressed to me the strong hope that Her Majesty's Government would not accredit a Minister to the Prince of Roumania till the condition upon which it was stated that the independence of the Principality would be recognized had been fulfilled by the removal of the Jewish disabilities.

I said that, to the best of my belief, Her Majesty's Government intended to wait till the condition in question had been complied with before they accredited a Minister

to Bucharest; and I asked at the same time whether it was correct, as I had been told by M. Balatchano, that it was contended that all the foreign Jews located in the Principality, who formed an immense majority of the whole number, should at once be admitted to civil and political rights as Roumanian citizens. He entirely disclaimed any such pretension, saying that, of course, only those born in the Principality could claim the citizenship as a right, and that the others should be put in the same position as other foreigners, who might acquire a right to be naturalized after a domicile of the duration required by law.

In reference to this question, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Italian Ambassador told me to-day that his Government had decided upon at once sending their Agent at Bucharest the letters accrediting him as Minister, and that he expected to receive them for transmission within the next few days.

The removal of all religious disabilities having been laid down by the Treaty of Berlin as a condition upon which the independence of the Principality was to be acknowledged, it cannot be questioned that Her Majesty's Government, in delaying the appointment of a Minister, have acted with greater consistency than the Governments which have not thought it necessary to wait; but, as three months must elapse before the Constitution can legally be altered, it seems to merit very serious consideration whether a longer withholding of the recognition which has been made by others might not impair the influence which events may shortly make it very desirable for Her Majesty's Government to possess at Bucharest.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 47.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 767. Confidential.)

Vienna, October 28, 1878.

My Lord,

AS it appears from Sir Henry Layard's despatches that the Sultan considers that the relations between Turkey and Austria must become critical unless some agreement is come to about Bosnia, I have endeavoured cautiously to ascertain what Count Andrassy's feelings on the subject were, by asking Baron Orczy what it was proposed to do about fixing a line of frontier within which it was intended that the Austrian Administration should be exercised, and about other matters on which a concert between the two Governments appeared necessary, or at least desirable.

With regard to the frontier of the province to be administered, he said that it was intended to keep as nearly as possible to what had been the line of the district of Novi-Bazar, up to which the country may be considered as now occupied.

With regard to any understanding to be come to between the two Governments, Baron Orczy said that Count Andrassy considered that the manner in which the Porte had declared that it could conclude no Convention about Bosnia rendered it impossible for him to make any overture on the subject, though, if one were made by the Porte, he would still be ready to entertain it; but I imagine the arrangement which his Excellency had in view had reference rather to the question of having garrisons in the Novi-Bazar district than to the portion of Bosnia now occupied.

Baron Orczy spoke of the great advantage it would be to Turkey if Austrian garrisons in that district secured the Porte against all Slav attack in that direction, and enabled it to move the large force it was obliged to maintain there to points where they might be urgently required, and it may, therefore, be supposed that Count Andrassy would still be ready to take an engagement to that effect.

Some weeks before the Porte's rejection of the Convention, it had appeared to Caratheodory and myself that, considering the difficulties in concluding it, it might best be satisfied with an arrangement having reference only to the district where, by the Treaty of Berlin, Austria is entitled to have garrisons, but which she is not to administer, and it may not be too late still to bring it about, either by a spontaneous overture from the Porte, or through the good offices of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 48.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 768.) *Vienna, October 29, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE read to Baron Orczy your Lordship's despatch No. 555 of the 24th instant respecting the inhumanities attributed to the Austrian troops in Bosnia.

His Excellency, in expressing his thanks for the communication, said he would convey its substance to Count Andrassy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 49.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, November 1.)

Constantinople, le 23 Octobre, 1878.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

JE vous transmets ci-joint, pour votre information, copie d'une dépêche de l'Ambassade de Turquie à Vienne, concernant les dégâts causés à la ville de Breka par le bombardment que les troupes Austro-Hongroises ont fait essuyer.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure in No. 49.

Essad Bey to Safvet Pasha.

Vienne, le 27 Septembre, 1878.

Altesse,

D'APRÈS une correspondance en date du 19 courant la ville de Breka a été totalement détruite par le bombardement que lui ont fait essuyer les troupes Austro-Hongroises.

Les mosquées ainsi que les églises Catholiques et Orthodoxes ne sont plus que des monceaux de ruines. Le commerce a beaucoup souffert, et la plupart des négociants ont décidé de protester contre le traitement barbare que les Autrichiens ont infligé à Breka qui peut être considéré comme une ville ouverte.

Je prie, &c.

No. 50.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey. (Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, November 1.)

Le 23 Octobre, 1878.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

LE Gouvernement Hellénique ayant reçu de son Agent Consulaire à Prévésa un télégramme annonçant l'arrivée en cette ville de 260 Circassiens, a fait de cette nouvelle l'objet d'une communication officielle tant à ses Représentants à l'étranger qu'aux missions des Puissances à Athènes. Le Gouvernement Hellénique s'est attaché à représenter ce fait comme contraire aux engagements pris par la Sublime Porte au sujet de la colonisation des Circassiens et de l'emploi des troupes irrégulières dans les provinces limitrophes.

Les récriminations auxquelles le Cabinet d'Athènes s'est livré à cet égard ne sauraient se justifier d'aucune manière. En effet, l'engagement pris par le Gouvernement Impérial ne se rapporte évidemment pas aux Circassiens enrégimentés dans les rangs de l'armée Ottomane, et le corps dont parle l'Agent de Grèce à Prévésa n'est autre qu'un détachement de cavalerie régulière Circassienne envoyé dernièrement de Constantinople. Jusqu'à présent, pas un Circassien n'a été installé ou expédié dans le vilayet de Janina.

J'ai tenu à vous faire part de ce qui précède pour que vous vouliez bien, le cas échéant, édifier à cet égard M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 51.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 903.) *Therapia, October 31,* 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER has asked me to give most positive assurances to Her Majesty's Government that the Porte is taking energetic measures for surrender of Podgoritza and Spuz, and hopes that it will be shortly effected.

No. 52.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 53.) *Paris, October 31,* 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

FRENCH Agent at Bucharest telegraphs that Italy has already recognized the independence and appointed a Minister.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs is anxious to learn more fully your Lordship's grounds for thinking speedy recognition by France and England advisable.

No. 53.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 39.) *Philippopolis, October 31,* 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I LEARN that at Djoumaia there was an encounter between Turks and Bulgarians, where 134 Turks were made prisoners. Another took place at Egri Palanka, near Kustendil, where Bulgarians were beaten and dispersed. Russian troops, to the number of 6,000, are being concentrated at Samakow. There is a very great agitation going on here among Bulgarians of town, but it does not seem as yet to have obtained much hold on the peasantry. Hints were thrown out to one of my colleagues of demonstrations to stop labours of Commission. The militia recruited here, amounting to about 20,000, of which two-thirds have been sent across Ichtiman Balkans, to be in readiness.

In the face of this the Turks, as you will see by my despatch sent yesterday, were about to propose a Council of eight to assist Governor, who were to be named by the Ministers. I have spoken most seriously to them on this, and asked French and Austrian and Italian Commissioners to do the same; hope I shall succeed in stopping so dangerous a proposal.

No. 54.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 40.) *Philippopolis, October 31,* 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

ASSIM PASHA has promised me not to make proposal mentioned in my last telegram. He also informs me that the Russians are inviting two representatives from each village to come and make a demonstration against the Commission after two or three sittings.

No. 55.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 1.)

(No. 964.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, November 1, 1878.

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis dated the 31st:—

"The Turks and Jews have stood firm in their refusal to sign Memorial expressing satisfaction with present administration. Petko is again mustering forces in the Rhodope to attack Turkish mountaineers. 170 Bulgarian volunteers from Carlova district have passed through Philippopolis in the last fortnight on their way to join him. They are supplied here with arms, provisions, and money, and are conducted as far as Russian outposts by police escort to prevent their committing depredations in territory occupied by Russians."

No. 56.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 1327.) [B.B.]
My Lord,
Therapia, October 26, 1878.

I AM informed that the Council of State has discussed and approved an elaborate scheme for the constitution of the gendarmerie, which is about to be submitted to the Council of Ministers. I understand that the regulations which it is proposed to establish with regard to this corps are founded principally upon those prepared last year for the Porte by Baker Pasha, and upon those in force in some European States.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 57.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 869.)
My Lord,
Paris, October 30, 1878.

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I spoke to M. Waddington this afternoon about the question of formally recognizing the independence of Roumania.

I said that it appeared to Her Majesty's Government that, regard being had to the general interests of Europe, it might be inexpedient to defer the recognition for a long time. The result of delay might, Her Majesty's Government thought, be to drive the Roumanians into the arms of Russia at a critical moment.

I added that your Lordship gathered from the communication made by the Roumanian Agent that the existing Legislature at Bucharest had formally pledged itself to the acceptance of the conditions laid down in the Treaty of Berlin; although, on account of the peculiarities of the Roumanian Constitution, the actual establishment by law of religious equality could not be effected for a considerable time. I said, in conclusion, that your Lordship supposed that the pledge already given by the Legislature might be confirmed by a diplomatic assurance in the same sense, and that you were anxious to learn M. Waddington's opinion on the question.

M. Waddington answered that, although he had not committed himself to any irrevocable assertion on the subject, he had hitherto, in the language he had held to the Roumanian Government, adhered, without any variation, to the declaration that the independence of Roumania should not be formally recognized until the Constituent Assembly had at least passed the first reading of a bill establishing religious equality. He added that, according to the information he had received, such a bill might be read a first time in the month of January next.

M. Waddington proceeded to observe that he was not aware of any special circumstance at the present moment which he could assign as a reason for changing this decision, but that he would not decline to reconsider the matter if your Lordship particularly wished him to do so.

He added, however, that he had reason to suppose that the Government of Germany was strongly disposed to require that the actual and complete establishment of religious equality should precede the recognition of the independence of Roumania; and he said that he thought it extremely important that France, England, and Germany should pursue the same course with regard to this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 58.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 873. Confidential.)
My Lord,
Paris, October 31, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 869 of yesterday, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington told me this afternoon that he had just received a telegram from the Acting French Agent at Bucharest, stating that Italy had already recognized the independence of Roumania, and appointed a Diplomatic Representative in that country, with the rank of Minister Plenipotentiary.

M. Waddington said that in the telegram it was stated that Italy had been instigated to take this step by Germany, that this was in direct contradiction to the information he had received from other quarters with regard to the sentiments of the German Government. He should, indeed, be more inclined to think that Russia had had a hand in the matter.

However this might be, the Italian recognition perhaps altered in some degree the aspect of the question; and M. Waddington would be glad to be made more fully acquainted with the grounds upon which was based the opinion of Her Majesty's Government that it might be advisable not to delay for long the recognition of Roumanian independence by France and England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 59.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 965.)
(Telegraphic.)
Therapia, November 1, 1878.

SULTAN has asked me to communicate to him, confidentially, in French, and signed by me as an authentication, [but?] to be considered a secret document, your Lordship's telegram of 26th ultimo, relating to evacuation of Balkan peninsula by the Russians.

May I do so?

No. 60.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.)
Athens, November 1, 1878.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegrams of the 25th and 28th instant, I have the honour to communicate in substance the reply of "excellent authority." Has not heard that peasants in Macedonia had joined Bulgarian revolt: will inquire. Greece cannot exercise on distant populations same influence as if it had possession of territory conceded by Congress. Influence of Greece was comparatively greater before late war, which has altered equilibrium between Greeks and Slavs. The former remain as before; the latter have become emancipated. Greeks near Slav frontier are more attracted by emancipated Slavs than by Hellenism, unable to protect them efficaciously against the tendency of the Slavs to reach Ægean Sea, so that, instead of menacing them with loss of their nationality, which would be contrary to British

interests, England would do well to protect more efficaciously the Hellenic element by obliging Turkey to cede without loss of time territory accorded by Congress.

By last accounts Greeks of Macedonia, far from taking part with Bulgarians, are treated as enemies by them and by the Turks.

It is certain that the Greeks of Macedonia will never make common cause with Turks.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 61.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 177.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 2, 1878.*

M. DE GIERS has replied by telegraph to French Circular regarding rectification of Turco-Greek frontier as follows:—

"Without pronouncing definitively and awaiting text of Circular the Imperial Cabinet participates in opinion of French Minister for Foreign Affairs in regard to motives which appear to require a common action of Powers in favour of Greece conformably with stipulations of Treaty of Berlin."

No. 62.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 178.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 2, 1878.*

I LEARN that Acting Roumanian Agent here has rather suddenly left for Livadia.

His uncle, General Ghika, has been appointed Roumanian Minister here.

No. 63.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 541.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 2, 1878.*

YELLOW Book will appear on Tuesday next, the 5th instant.

No. 64.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 260.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 2, 1878.*

I HAVE been asked by the Roumanian Minister whether conclusion by his Government of Convention with Russia securing passage of her troops through the Dobrudscha would be regarded by the Powers as contrary to the Treaty of Berlin.

I said that whether it would be an infraction of the Treaty or not, Powers had certainly not intended the Dobrudscha to be rendered practically Russian territory as far as movement of troops was concerned, and I believe, moreover, that if Her Majesty's Government should be involved in hostilities with Russia upon matters arising out of the Treaty, and found that Russian troops and supplies were allowed free passage through Roumanian territory, they would consider themselves at liberty to hold the Roumanian Government responsible and to take any measures that British interests might require.

He said that if Her Majesty's Government shared the views I had expressed it might be very useful to make them known at once at Bucharest, where he would tell me confidentially some Ministers were inclined to give way to the pressure now being exerted by Russia, and it would greatly strengthen the hands of those who are opposed to the Convention.

No. 65.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 261.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 2, 1878.*

ROUMANIAN Minister tells me that his Government has named a Commissioner for the Danubian Navigation Commission, which meets on the 5th, and he hopes that no difficulty will be made to his taking part in it on account of the independance of Roumania not having been officially recognized by Her Majesty's Government or by France and Germany.

No. 66.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 2.)

(No. 967.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 2, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL at Philippopolis reports that information has been received from Somacoff of two actions in Macedonia between the Turkish troops and insurgents. In the first, at Djuma, insurgents attacked Turks with overwhelming numbers, defeated them, and took 134 prisoners. In the second, at Egripalanka, insurgents were repulsed with heavy loss. After last engagement it is stated Russian officer was sent to Turkish Commander to urge him to push forward in order to assure himself that the Bulgarians who had attacked him were a set of drunken marauders who had acted without the knowledge of the Russians. Subscriptions for insurrection are being actively collected at Sammcoff, where the Russian troops are being concentrated. A new Committee, composed of influential Bulgarians, has been formed at Philippopolis to promote agitation among the peasantry of Bulgaria, and it is contemplated to drill under Russian officers all Bulgarian able-bodied male population between the ages of 18 and 40.

No. 67.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1878.*

YOU may assure Roumanian Government of fullest moral support from Her Majesty's Government in insisting on their right to Dobrudscha without condition of giving military passage to Russians. And you may inform them, quite confidentially, that Her Majesty's Government have engaged to Sultan to co-operate with him in compelling Russia to evacuate Bulgaria and Roumelia if next May they have not done so.

If Roumania now binds herself to give a military passage, she will compromise her neutrality in the event of such a war.

No. 68.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Foreign Office, November 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 965, we have no objection, if Sultan desires it; but as such a document must ultimately be laid before Parliament great care will be required in drawing it, especially with reference to Sultan's previous execution of Berlin Treaty. I must therefore consult Cabinet. I anticipate they will think Parliament likely to blame us if we allow you to sign such a promise before outstanding controversies are settled, such as ratification of the Convention, Cyprus land, and Montenegrin frontier. What chance is there of early settlement?

No. 69.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1878, 5 P.M.

ROUMANIAN Agent at Paris has asked me for support of Her Majesty's Government in the Boundary Commission in order to secure for Roumania the right of building a bridge near Silistria and frontier in a straight line from thence to Mangalia.

You will understand that Her Majesty's Government desire that the language of the Treaty conveying to Roumania territory on the right bank of the Danube should be construed in as large and liberal a sense as possible.

No. 70.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 36.) *Foreign Office, November* 2, 1878.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, reporting a conversation with the Roumanian Agent, in which the latter requested the assistance of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the new frontier line of the Dobrudscha about to be fixed by the Commission of which you are a member.

The objects which the Roumanian Government are anxious to secure are, that the point of departure near Silistria should be so fixed as to give the Roumanians the opportunity of constructing a bridge in the neighbourhood of that town, and that the frontier should be drawn from thence to Mangalia in a straight line.

I have informed you by telegraph that Her Majesty's Government are desirous that the language of the Treaty in regard to the cession of territory made to Roumania on the right bank of the Danube should be understood in as large and liberal a sense as possible.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 71.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 879.) *Paris, November* 2, 1878.

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED this afternoon to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 719, of the 30th ultimo, respecting the official rank of Mr. Harrison, who has been selected by Her Majesty's Government to examine the financial resources of the Porte.

M. Waddington told me that the French Government had definitively made choice of M. Tricou, the French Consul-General in Syria, for the same mission: and that M. Tricou was ordered to go direct from Beyrout to Constantinople without any unnecessary delay.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 72.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 41.) *Philippopolis, November* 3, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

MEETING to-day. M. Schmidt, of the Ottoman Bank, elected Director-General of Finance.

Turkish Commissioners deposited project of Superintendence Règlement. Russians deposited existing Regulations of province.

Kallai charged to draw up a programme for discussion. He will consult M. Ring (*sic*) and myself.

I should not like my No. 38 of the 24th September to be published, as it might compromise them; and, in all conversations reported, it will, perhaps, be well to suppress names.

No. 73.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 3.)

(No. 56.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 3, 1878.

THE French Circular of the 21st October respecting Greece has been favourably received at Berlin.

German Government accepts French proposal to co-operate with the Signatory Powers in facilitating the execution of the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 74.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1957. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government will have no objection that your Excellency should communicate in writing, confidentially, to the Sultan, should His Majesty desire it, the engagement which you were authorized by my telegram of the 26th ultimo to give on the part of Her Majesty's Government.

But great care will have to be taken as to the terms used in drafting such an engagement, and especially with reference to that portion of it which relates to the previous performance by Turkey of all the requirements of the Treaty of Berlin.

I must therfore consult with the Cabinet before I can furnish your Excellency with more precise instructions upon the subject.

Most probably Her Majesty's Government would see objections to sanctioning the signature of such a promise by your Excellency, unless they had secured beforehand a settlement of the questions now pending with the Porte, such as the ratification by the Sultan of the Convention between Great Britain and Turkey of the 4th June last, the land question in Cyprus, and the delimitation of the Montenegrin frontier.

I have requested your Excellency, by telegraph, to inform me what chance there is of an early settlement of these questions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 75.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 58. Secret.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 3, 1878.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your despatches Nos. 207 and 210 of the 22nd and 26th ultimo, in which you allude to the pressure which, it is stated, is being brought to bear upon Roumania by Russia to conclude a Convention which shall give a right of passage for Russian troops through Roumanian territory for ten years, to date from the month of May next.

I have informed you by telegraph that you may promise to the Government of Prince Charles the fullest moral support on the part of that of Her Majesty in insisting on the right of Roumania to the Dobrudscha unfettered by any such condition as that which Russia seeks to extort from her.

You are further authorized to inform the Roumanian Government quite confidentially that Her Majesty's Government have undertaken to co-operate with the Sultan in compelling the Russians to evacuate the Balkan Peninsula, should they not have done so by the month of May next, as stipulated in Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin. You should at the same time point out that if Roumania now binds herself

to afford facilities for the passage of Russian troops she will compromise her own neutrality in case hostilities should take place between Russia and this country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 76.

Sir E. Thornton to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 283.) *Washington, October 21, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the American steamer "John Brauhall" started on the 15th instant from New Haven, Connecticut, with arms and ammunition for the Turkish Government. Later news reports that she ran on shore in going out of the harbour, and I have not yet learnt whether she has got off again and has been able to continue her voyage.

Her cargo is said to be worth nearly 1,000,000 dollars, or 200,000*l.* sterling, and to include 32,000 rifles and 42,000 sabres, besides a considerable quantity of ammunition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. THORNTON.

P.S.—I have since learnt that the above-mentioned steamer is very badly on shore with thirteen feet of water in her hold, and that there is great danger that she will not be got off, and that only a part of her cargo can be saved.

E. T.

No. 77.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 145. Political.) *Trebizond, October 22, 1878.*

My Lord,

TSURUKSOOLI ALI PASHA, who has just called upon me, has offered to volunteer if not opposed by the Porte, with 3,000 or 4,000 Lazes to fight against the Afghans.

The force is not an imposing one, though it consists of hardy men, who are accustomed to mountain warfare, and may be valuable on certain occasions in Afghanistan; but the moral benefit which may accrue from the presence of this small contingent in the ranks of the British army deserves, in my humble opinion, more consideration.

The Mussulmans will see their co-religionists of Turkey siding with Great Britain against Russia, and the Asiatic populations at large will witness tribes which, being acquainted with the worth of Russian rule, have, in order to escape it, not only preferred to emigrate, but have also volunteered to undertake a long journey in order to fight against the detested Government, even when it is disguised under Afghan colours.

Youssuf Pasha has shown me lists of about 7,500 families of Lazistan, who have sent agents in Turkey to procure by purchase, or otherwise, suitable lands for them; and of 6,500 other Laz families, who begged the Turkish Government to indicate spots where they can settle. These 14,000 families, Ali and Osman Pashas assure me, will emigrate from Batoum on a single word from them.

It has struck me, in consequence of Ali Pasha's offer, and Youssuf Pasha's communication, that it might suit Her Majesty's Government to offer to these emigrants lands at Cyprus, which is an island in which numerous settlers can find occupation.

It is true that the Laz tribes, although they addict themselves to agriculture, do not offer the agricultural capacities that may be found in other races, but they are a splendid fighting element.

The 14,000 families mentioned above, together with 1,000 which are here, may furnish, according to Ali Pasha's calculation, no less than 20,000 men capable to bear arms.

A war with Russia in the direction of India being unavoidable, and carrying with

it an invasion of the Caucasus, these 20,000 men, drilled according to British tactics, would be an invaluable contingent.

The presence of a small number of them in India would produce the moral benefits alluded to above, while the expedition of the remainder to fight their detested foe in the Caucasus would be productive of material advantages which are not to be despised.

Owing to their knowledge of the country, to their family, and other connections with the other tribes under the Russian rule, and to the hope of recovering their native land, the services which they could render would be far above those that could be rendered by the best contingent representing an identical number of men.

There is also a consideration of another order, which I beg respectfully to point out.

It is known that the Lazes have beseeched to be taken under British protection, as it is known that Great Britain, having been party to the Treaty of Berlin, would sanction no proceeding inconsistent with it. By allowing the Lazes to settle at Cyprus, it will be shown that although executing to the letter the Conventions entered into, Great Britain does not abandon the populations which have placed their confidence in her.

The advantage to be derived from this measure are likely to be of such importance for British influence in Asia at large, and in Anatolia in particular, as to deserve perhaps to be taken into consideration.

I have informed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that if he wishes to confer personally with Ali and Osman Pashas, I can induce them to proceed to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 78.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 771. Confidential.) *Vienna, October 20, 1878.*

My Lord,

I MENTIONED to your Lordship, about a fortnight ago, that Count Zichy had not informed his Government of the declaration made by Prince Labanoff to the Grand Vizier, that the Russian evacuation of Turkish territory beyond the confines of East Roumelia was dependent on a definitive Treaty still to be signed between the two Powers; and though I perceive from Sir Henry Layard's despatches that this declaration was repeated on the 21st instant, the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador has still abstained from reporting it.

In speaking upon this subject yesterday to Baron Orczy, I observed that Count Andrassy had declared any such pretension as that attributed to Prince Labanoff to be entirely inadmissible, and Count Zichy's silence upon a matter of so great importance, which was being generally alluded to by the public press, was so strange that I thought he ought to be asked what he knew about it.

Baron Orczy said that he would at once telegraph to Count Zichy to inquire into it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 79.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 774.) *Vienna, October 31, 1878.*

My Lord,

COUNT ZICHY reports to his Government that Sulvet Pasha had admitted to him that some portions of territory to be ceded to Servia are still held by the Turks.

As this is in contradiction with the Reports of Her Majesty's Agent at Belgrade, I have asked him whether, upon further inquiry, he finds it to be correct.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 80.

Count Andrassy to Baron de Ripp.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Beust, November 4.)

[Not for B.B.]

Vienne, le 29 Octobre, 1878.

CONFORMÉMENT au texte du Traité de Berlin il aurait appartenu à la Commission Européenne pour la Bulgarie de fixer toutes les frontières de la nouvelle Principauté suivant les grandes lignes tracées à ce sujet dans ce même Traité.

Mais comme il s'est formé depuis encore une Commission de Délimitation pour la Servie dont la convocation n'avait pas été prise en vue par le Traité de Berlin, les membres de cette Commission se sont posé la question si la fixation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare ne devait pas faire partie de leurs travaux, et comme nous le mande notre Commissaire, la plupart d'entre eux, se fondant sur leurs instructions respectives, ont déclaré que tel était en effet le cas.

Le Gouvernement Anglais prenant en considération le texte du Traité de Berlin a voulu d'abord faire dépendre son adhésion à cette interprétation d'une entente préalable et formelle des Puissances, mais il a fini par autoriser son Délégué à la Commission de Délimitation pour la Servie à prendre part aux travaux concernant la fixation de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare. En agissant de la sorte le Gouvernement Anglais est parti du point de vue qu'il devrait s'établir plus tard une entente entre les deux Commissions de Délimitation.

Quant à nous, nous ne nous opposons pas à ce que la frontière Serbo-Bulgare soit fixée *de facto* par la Commission de Délimitation pour la Servie, vu que cette dernière n'est pas représentée dans la Commission pour la Bulgarie.

Nous partageons cependant l'opinion du Gouvernement Anglais que cette déviation du texte du Traité de Berlin a besoin d'une sanction subséquente, et qu'une entente entre les deux Commissions serait le meilleur moyen d'arriver à ce but. D'après ce que je sais, le Gouvernement Anglais ne s'est pas prononcé sur la manière dont cette entente serait mise en scène. D'après mon avis, le plus facile serait si la Commission pour la Délimitation de la Servie faisait part du résultat de ses travaux, en tant qu'il concerne la frontière Serbo-Bulgare, à l'autre Commission, qui pourrait alors simplement donner son adhésion à cette œuvre. De cette manière il serait aussi rendu justice au texte du Traité de Berlin.

Dans ce sens j'ai autorisé le Major de Bilimek à prendre part aux travaux relatifs à la frontière Serbo-Bulgare, et il me serait agréable d'apprendre par vous les instructions que vos collègues de la Commission pour la Bulgarie auront reçues à ce sujet.

Recevez, &c.

No. 81.

Count Andrassy to Baron de Ripp.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Beust, November 4.)

[Not for B.B.]

(Extrait.)

LE Gouvernement Roumain nous a informé par son Envoyé que, conformément à l'Article LIII du Traité de Berlin il nommera un Délégué à la Commission Danubienne. Ce Délégué présentera déjà ses pleins pouvoirs à la Commission à la prochaine session qui commence le 5 Novembre, pour y être admis et pour prendre part à ses délibérations.

Nous devons supposer que cette communication de la part du Gouvernement Roumain a été faite à toutes les Puissances qui se trouvent représentées dans la Commission, et nous croyons agir en conformité avec les vues de ces dernières en nous empressant de reconnaître l'admission du Délégué Roumain en vertu du Traité de Berlin et en munissant notre Délégué à la Commission d'instructions nécessaires à ce sujet.

Nous avons hésité jusqu'à présent de faire des propositions au sujet des stipulations du Traité de Berlin concernant la Commission Danubienne parce que nous avons jugé opportun d'attendre que le Gouvernement de la Bulgarie se constitue, puisque son Représentant, d'après l'Article LV, doit être appelé à participer aux travaux de la Commission relatifs à l'élaboration de règlements de police et de surveillance pour la navigation de la partie du Danube qui s'étend de la Porte de Fer jusqu'à Galatz.

Mais comme le Gouvernement de la Bulgarie ne s'est pas encore constitué et qu'il faudra que des travaux préparatoires demandent un certain temps précédent à la mise à exécution des stipulations concernant le Bas Danube, nous ne croyons plus devoir tarder à proposer aux Puissances de s'occuper de la question de mettre à exécution les stipulations du Traité de Berlin qui se rapportent au règlement de la situation du Bas Danube en aval de la Porte de Fer. Nous croyons d'autant plus devoir faire cette démarche qu'à la suite de réclamations de la part de particuliers la question du Bas Danube a déjà formé le sujet de pourparlers entre les Délégués de la Commission Européenne à Galatz. Ces derniers ont relevé combien il était nécessaire d'arriver à la solution définitive de cette question et ont décidé d'en faire le sujet d'un rapport à leurs Gouvernements.

La tâche imposée à la Commission Danubienne par le Traité de Berlin est double.

La Commission aura à réviser l'acte public de l'année 1865 pour le mettre en harmonie avec les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, et trouvera ainsi l'occasion d'y ajouter quelques amendements dont le besoin s'est fait sentir dans le courant des dernières années.

En même temps elle est appelée suivant l'Article LV à élaborer les règlements de police et de surveillance pour la navigation du fleuve depuis la Porte de Fer jusqu'à Galatz, règlements qui doivent s'accorder avec les règlements analogues étant en vigueur pour la partie du Danube à partir de Galatz. Dans ce but la Commission proposera tout ce qu'elle juge nécessaire pour faire entrer en vigueur sur le Bas Danube le nouvel état de choses, tel qu'il a été crée par le Traité de Berlin.

Nous proposons donc que les Gouvernements qui se trouvent représentés dans la Commission fassent part à leurs Délégués des décisions du Traité de Berlin et les munissent d'instructions nécessaires afin que les travaux susmentionnés soient entrepris sans délai par la Commission.

Je prie votre Excellence de porter cette proposition à la connaissance du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous avez l'honneur d'être accrédité et de le prier de vouloir bien me faire savoir quelles sont à ce sujet ses vues.

No. 82.

Count Andrassy to Baron de Ripp.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Beust, November 4.)

[Not for B.B.]

Vienne, le 29 Octobre, 1878.

VOUS nous mandez que l'Angleterre et la Russie se rencontrant dans l'idée que la délimitation de la Roumélie Orientale doit être confiée à une Commission Internationale Spéciale ont déjà envoyé à Constantinople des Délégués spéciaux pour cette Commission. La France et l'Italie d'après vos rapports sont d'avis qu'il faudrait laisser la délimitation de la Roumélie Orientale à un sous-Comité dépendant de la Commission Européenne pour la Bulgarie; l'Allemagne adopte un point de vue analogue au notre.

Comme l'Angleterre et la Russie semblent s'accorder sur la question de principe, c'est-à-dire la nomination de deux Commissions séparées, nous sommes aussi disposés à préférer cette manière de procéder. Il en résulterait aussi une accélération désirable des travaux de délimitation, et la séparation de la Roumélie Orientale de la Bulgarie proclamée par le Traité de Berlin serait de nouveau accentuée.

Nous ne voulons cependant pas attacher trop de poids à ces considérations, et sur la question si la future Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale doit dépendre ou non de celle pour la Bulgarie, nous allons nous ranger du côté de la majorité.

Il ressort de vos rapports que la Russie regarde les deux Commissions comme coordonnées mais non pas si l'Angleterre est du même avis; nous nous adressons aux différents Cabinets pour provoquer l'envoi d'instructions à leurs Délégues respectifs et pour faire mûrir la question.

Dans tous les cas le Capitaine Comte de Wurmbrand est destiné à nous représenter dans la Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale. Il ne faut pas perdre de vue que la fixation de la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale est, d'après le texte du Traité de Berlin, parmi les tâches de la Commission pour la Bulgarie. Une Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale indépendante coordonnée à celle pour la Bulgarie devrait donc ou s'occuper seulement des autres frontières de la nouvelle province ou bien

accepter simplement la ligne des Balcans telle qu'elle aura été tracée par la Commission pour la Bulgarie.

Quant à la question relevée dans vos rapports, s'il est opportun de convoquer immédiatement la Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale, je vous ferai observer que je ne vois aucune raison pour traîner l'affaire en longueur. Il me semble que c'est la Turquie, dans l'intérêt de laquelle avant tout cette Commission est destinée à agir, qui serait en première ligne appelée à donner son opinion sur la question d'opportunité.

No. 83.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 968.) *Therapia, November 3, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of this morning, Grand Vizier gives me positive assurances that Montenegrin frontier will be soon settled. I hope soon to get back declaration from the Sultan about the ratifications. As regards the Cyprus land question, Grand Vizier declares himself ready to settle it in a satisfactory manner; but the difficulty consists in determining what lands we consider as belonging to the Ottoman Crown and State. It would be very desirable that I should be informed of Sir Garnet Wolseley's opinion on the subject, in order that I may make a definite proposal to the Grand Vizier.

No. 84.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(No. 969.) *Therapia, November 4, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Blunt, dated Larissa, the 3rd November:—

"Further intelligence received this morning from Salonica states that only two companies, composed of 120 men, and not four companies, as previously telegraphed, were surrounded by Bulgarian insurgents near Melni, six killed, nine wounded; remainder surrendered, and have been taken within Russian lines into district of Djuma, and are there detained as prisoners by Russian authorities. Commanders of forces here telegraphed to War Office this morning that Greek border troops designedly fired upon Turkish patrols pursuing robbers on Turkish territory, killing one, wounding two men. Patrols retired without returning the fire."

No. 85.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

Belgrade, November 4, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

FOLLOWING telegram received from [English?] Boundary Commissioner at Vranja, and transmitted to Constantinople and Vienna:—

"Russian troops are at Zaribood, Brezenich, and Trn, which are still occupying Turkish territory; they are also at Trigovisti. No Turks on territory; reverting to Servia by Treaty. In ten days I hope frontier here will be mark [ed?] Could it not be arranged that Servia should retire, and Turkey occupy new frontier before the 13th? I think this important.

"Should above suggestion be adopted by Her Majesty's Government and by Porte, I propose informing the Servian Government at the last moment that the [delineation of?] this section of the frontier having been concluded by Commission, and Servia having repeatedly expressed her anxiety to withdraw as soon as this should be accomplished, the Turkish troops have been ordered to reoccupy territory reverting to Turkey.

"Servia will most probably submit if she is suddenly called upon to do so.

"At this very moment she [has?] serious difficulties with Russia of a similar nature respecting Bulgarian frontier."

No. 86.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 4, 1878.*

I WAS surprised to learn this afternoon from the Havas telegrams that the Yellow Book had been presented to the Chambers at to-day's sitting by the Minister for Foreign Affairs.

In answer to an inquiry, M. Waddington informs me that it was ready a few hours sooner than he expected.

No. 87.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 4.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November 4, 1878.*

COLONEL HOME telegraphs from Silistria to-day that the Turkish Commissioner has again been elected President of the Boundary Commission.

No. 88.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 4, 1878, 6·15 P.M.*

THE French have formally proposed to the Powers to mediate under the terms of Article XXIV, and for that purpose suggest a simultaneous and identic note, requiring the Porte to assent to the principle of rectification, and to name Commissaries for the purpose of drawing a frontier line. Italy, Germany, and Russia have accepted in general terms. Austria has asked what our course will be. If the request of the French Government is pressed we are bound under the Treaty to mediate, though probably we may demur to the French form. But before answering I should be glad to hear whether there is any likelihood of the Sultan making a proposal spontaneously.

No. 89.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1361.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 4, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch from the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, which has been placed in my hands by the French Ambassador at this Court.

Your Excellency will perceive that it is a formal proposal that the Powers should mediate between the Porte and Greece under the terms of Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin, and that M. Waddington suggests that this mediation should take the form of a simultaneous and identic note from the Powers, calling upon the Porte to assent to the principle of a rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier, and to name Commissioners for the purpose of tracing the new frontier line.

From information which has reached me, it would appear that the Italian, German, and Russian Governments have accepted this invitation in general terms.

The Government of Austria-Hungary have inquired what course Her Majesty's Government propose to pursue in the matter.

If the French Government press their present proposal, Her Majesty's Government are bound, under the terms of the Treaty, to mediate, though it is probable that they may object to the form proposed by the French Government.

Before, however, returning an answer to the inquiries of the French Government, Her Majesty's Government are anxious to learn whether there is any probability of

the Sultan spontaneously making a proposal on the subject, which would obviate the necessity for mediation.

I instructed your Excellency this day in the above sense by telegraph.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 90.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 730.)

Foreign Office, November 4, 1878.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador called on the 31st ultimo, and stated that he had been instructed by his Government to inquire the opinion entertained by Her Majesty's Government as to the practicability of carrying out the project urged on the Porte at the Congress of Berlin (and recorded in the Protocol of the 11th July), on the proposition of Count Corti, in concert with England and France, for the formation of a Financial Commission, to be composed of delegates of all the Powers, and charged with studying the means of satisfying the creditors of Turkey.

With reference to the appointment of Mr. Harrison, and to the proposal that a French colleague should be also appointed to sit on the Financial Commission which the Porte desires to nominate, his Excellency said that the French Government were disposed to think that they cannot withdraw from the project urged by the Congress of Berlin, nor support the Turkish Government if they endeavoured to elude its accomplishment.

His Excellency added that his Government were anxious to receive precise information ("être renseignés d'une manière positive") as to the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon this point.

I have, therefore, to request your Excellency to state to the Minister for Foreign Affairs that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the actual work to be done by such a Commission would be much more likely to be accomplished effectually by the joint action of two or three Powers friendly to Turkey than by that of six, of whom at least two are unfriendly to her.

At the same time, Her Majesty's Government cannot decline to act on such a Commission as that recommended in the Protocol, if it should be set up.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 91.

M. Delyanni to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by M. Gennadius, November 5.)

Athènes, le 21 Octobre, 1878.

JE vous communique ci-après le résumé d'une dépêche que je viens de recevoir du Consul Hellénique à Scutari, Albanie :—Ligue Albanaise de Prisrendi étant en pleine décomposition, tranquillité y est complète. A cause des dernières grandes discussions et inimitié entre villes qui la composent, les masses entraînées ont perdu toute confiance et foi aux desseins du Comité de Prisrendi, et la plus grande part des Chefs y rassemblés ont gagné leurs foyers. Il n'y a que quelques fanatiques qui croient encore à la Ligue Albanaise, encouragés par les autorités locales Ottomanes, qui font tous leurs efforts pour prolonger l'existence de la Ligue Albanaise.

(Signé) TH. P. DELYANNI.

Inclosure in No. 91.

M. Mavrommati to M. Delyanni.

Scodra, le 18 Février, 1878.

M. le Ministre,

L'INTÉRÊT que vous attachiez aux affaires de ce pays, et l'attention que vous voulez bien accorder à mes rapports, m'engagent à continuer de vous tenir au courant de ce qui se passe ici.

On peut affirmer que nous jouissons ici d'une tranquillité parfaite.

Pourtant cette tranquillité même pourrait servir d'argument contre la Porte; on peut raisonnablement en inférer que, lorsqu'elle veut, la Porte est parfaitement à même de tenir en respect les éléments d'agitation, et que, quand elle s'y intéresse, elle sait assurer le maintien de l'ordre. Mais plus loin, à Prisrendi, Diakova, et autres lieux, si le pays est en proie à l'anarchie la plus effrénée, c'est que la Porte trouve son intérêt à ce qu'il en soit ainsi.

Il y a toujours des dissensions dans ces contrées, et la Ligue récemment formée, menace d'attaquer Prisrendi.

Le courrier du Consulat Autrichien n'étant pas arrivé, je manque en ce moment de nouvelles plus récentes et plus précises de cette localité.

On est ici étonné et indigné tout ensemble de ce tour de force de la Turquie, qui consiste à en imposer à l'Europe au point d'en faire la propagatrice des "canards" mis en circulation par les feuilles Turques, et de lui persuader que c'est quelque chose de bien sérieux que le Comité de Prisrendi, que la presse Européenne qualifie de "formidable Ligue Albanaise." L'Europe est dans une si grande ignorance de la situation de ce pays, au point de vue géographique, ethnographique, politique, et statistique, que des journaux sérieux, tant Français qu'Anglais et Allemands, affirment, sans la moindre hésitation, que la Ligue peut disposer de 160,000 hommes de troupes très-aguerries!

Toute la partie de l'Albanie située au nord de Skubi, et qui l'année passée avait donné son adhésion à la Ligue de Prisrendi, compte 400,000 habitants environ, dont 100,000 Catholiques, 60,000 Orthodoxes, et 250,000 Turco-Albanais.

Conséquemment, à supposer même que les habitants de Prisrendi, Pristina, Diakova, Goussinie, Spet, Skubi, Scutari, et les tribus montagnardes jusqu'à Matia, et les habitants d'Elbasson, de Dibra, de Kavaya, de Tyranna, de Pekini, de Croja, et de Durazzo, s'allient ensemble encore, "la formidable Ligue" ne pourrait-elle mettre en campagne plus de 45,000 irréguliers mal armés, et cela dans l'hypothèse que tous les hommes âgés de 16 à 60 ans prendraient les armes. Mais dans ce cas même, et s'il était possible d'admettre que l'armée Turque resterait inactive, le Monténégro seul, et il l'a fait voir en d'autres circonstances, pourrait tenir cette Ligue en échec, et à bien plus forte raison s'il était secondé par la Serbie. Ajoutons à cela que les Mirdites et les autres Catholiques de la Haute Albanie, sur lesquels le clergé et les Puissances Catholiques exercent une grande influence, non-seulement ne prêteront aucun concours à la Ligue, mais que même ils se tourneront, probablement contre elle. Si l'on considère en outre, qu'une partie de la population Turco-Albanaise sert dans l'armée Impériale Turque, et qu'une autre partie a été détruite dans les dernières guerres, on conclura nécessairement qu'en réunissant toutes ses forces, la Ligue ne pourrait pas mettre sur le pied de guerre plus de 30,000 hommes.

En présence de ces rumeurs qui sont de nature à égarer l'opinion publique en Europe, et à faire naître de l'indécision dans les conseils des Gouvernements, j'ai cru qu'il était de mon devoir de placer sous les yeux de votre Excellence les chiffres ci-dessus, qui sont approximativement exacts. Votre Excellence pourra en tirer des conclusions identiques par rapport aux forces dont dispose la Basse Albanie (l'Albanie située au sud de Skubi), qui a pris une attitude menaçante à l'égard de la Grèce. Au nord comme au sud, j'ai fait tout ce qui dépendait de moi, et je suis bien convaincu que mes collègues, eux aussi, ont éclairé leurs Gouvernements respectifs, sur la situation véritable de ces contrées, aucun de ces Gouvernements ne saurait donc être abusé par la Porte—à moins de vouloir l'être.

Pour que votre Excellence se rende bien compte des moyens employés par la Porte pour entretenir le fanatisme des masses ignorantes, et les griser en quelque sorte par des récits monstrueusement mensongers et absurdes, et en même temps pour jeter de la poudre aux yeux des étrangers, je vais porter à votre connaissance deux faits tout récents.

Le Consul-Général d'Autriche reçoit souvent des télégrammes de son Gouvernement qui lui annoncent les succès obtenus en Bosnie par les Autrichiens, et, dans l'intérêt de la politique de son pays, il les rend publics. Ces succès et le découragement qui commence à s'emparer des rebelles ont contrarié les autorités locales, qui craignent que tout cela ne produise une fâcheuse impression sur l'esprit de nos populations. Or, donc, pour ne pas laisser refroidir l'ardeur fanatique de la multitude, voici à quels moyens on a eu recours. Depuis quatre jours, un télégramme est affiché sur la place publique, lequel contient les plus monstrueux mensonges sur les progrès de l'insurrection en Bosnie, les triomphes des rebelles et les revers des Autrichiens; le télégramme ajoute que dans un des derniers combats on aurait coupé 40,000 nez Autrichiens!

Ce télégramme aurait été adressé de Podgoritza à un Hodja (pasteur) qui est le

Président du Comité Insurrectionnel d'ici ; il aurait été expédié à la suite d'une nouvelle apportée à Podgoritza, par un Monténégrin venu à pied de Bosnie. Ce télégramme ridicule, les autorités Turques le laissent cependant affiché, si elles ne l'ont fait fabriquer, et la foule ignorante se réjouit et s'exalte en apprenant les sottises qu'il contient! Il est toutefois à craindre que si la vérité se fait jour tôt ou tard, la réaction que produira le désenchantement ne soit aussi forte que l'exaltation actuelle.

Lors d'une visite que le Gérant du Consulat Français a dernièrement faite, en compagnie d'un touriste de sa nation, au Gouverneur-Général ; celui-ci leur disait, en parlant du prochain retour du Consul-Général, M. Ceccaldi, qu'il ne répondait point de sa sûreté s'il voulait se rendre, en sa qualité de membre de la Commission de la Limitation, à Diakova, à Goussinie, où même à Podgoritza. Le Gérant du Consulat ayant fait observer que, du moins pour Podgoritza, son Excellence pourrait y faire respecter l'ordre public avec les forces militaires dont il disposait, le Gouverneur-Général a répondu, avec une bonhomie admirablement jouée, que nul n'oserait rien faire, de quelques forces qu'il disposât, contre la toute puissante Ligue Albanaise qui dispose de 400,000 hommes, dont 200,000 se trouvent dans la Haute Albanie et 200,000 autres dans la moyenne et la Basse.

P.S.—J'ai vu tantôt le Consul-Général d'Autriche, et il m'a assuré qu'il y a toujours des discussions entre Prisrendi et Diakova, mais qu'en ce moment l'irritation y semblait un peu calmée. Il était toutefois à craindre qu'après les fêtes du Baïram les ressentiments ne s'exaltassent encore, et que Prisrendi ne fût attaqué. Les autorités Turques n'ont pris aucune mesure ; elles se bornent à concentrer toutes les troupes à Mitrovitza.

(Signé) MAVROMMATI.

No. 92.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 970.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 4, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER requests me to ask your Lordship whether it is intended that a British Commissioner should take part in the delimitation of the whole of the new Turkish and Russian frontiers in Armenia, or only in tracing line of Alashkerd, referred to in your Agreement with Count Schouvaloff of the 12th July. Porte is ready to begin delimitation.

No. 93.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 971.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 4, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been sent to Consul at Canea, dated to-day :—

"Firman is ready, but, in order that there should be no doubt as to compliance with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, it will be submitted to the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia. Porte is not, however, bound to consult it or take its advice. I hope, therefore, that it will be sent to Crete shortly.

Confidential.—I think Grand Vizier is now inclined to name Photiades Bey, Governor. I have represented to his Highness expediency of consenting to the two demands of Sphakians mentioned in your despatch No. 135.

No. 94.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 972.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 4, 1878.*

I HAVE had a long conversation this morning with Safvet Pasha as to the complete execution of the Treaty of Berlin. There now only remains the surrender of Podgoritza and Spuz and Khotour, and the appointment of Special Commissioners under Article XXIII. His Highness informs me that measures are being taken to prevail upon the inhabitants of Podgoritza and Spuz to surrender those places and accept land which the Sultan is prepared to give them elsewhere if they will not remain under Montenegrin rule. I think I have persuaded the Grand Vizier to give up town of Khotour at once to Persia. He awaits your reply as to territory referred to in Article LX as fixed by Anglo-Russian Commissions. His Highness to-day named in consultation with me, a very good Commission for drawing up Organic Laws for the provinces not specially provided for, founded upon new Organic Laws for Crete and Eastern Roumelia, which will be submitted to the Special Commissioners. Council of Ministers will at once proceed to settle new regulations for gendarmerie. In fact [s] I found a good disposition to meet our views on all points. Russian Ambasssdor is pressing for conclusion of definite Treaty, and Grand Vizier is very anxious to have your advice as to the course he should pursue.

No. 95.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 42.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 4, 1878.*

COMMISSION to-day. Kallai's proposal, embodying principles of organization submitted previously to M. Ring and myself, was passed unanimously, with one insignificant alteration.

No. 96.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 179. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 5, 1878.*

I HAVE been asked by two of my colleagues—by one of them at the instigation of his Government—whether there is any truth in a report of secret negotiation between Russia and Austria for the cession by the latter of the Boukowina to Roumania, Austria to receive Bosnia and Herzegovina as compensation. The Dobrudscha would in that case be annexed to Bulgaria.

No. 97.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 974.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 5, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER, to whom I communicated substance of your telegram of yesterday about Greece, promises an answer for Thursday.

No. 99.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 5, 1878.*

THE following telegram has been sent to Mr. White, Secret:—

"You may assure Roumanian Government of fullest moral support from Her Majesty's Government in insisting on their right to Dobrudscha without condition of giving military passage to Russians. Also you may inform them quite confidentially that Her Majesty's Government have engaged to Sultan to co-operate with him in compelling Russia to evacuate Bulgaria and Roumelia if next May they have not done so. If Roumania now binds herself to give a military passage, she will compromise her neutrality in the event of such a war."

Your Excellency may, in strictest confidence, make a similar communication to Count Andrassy, if you should think it desirable. But this must be left wholly to your discretion.

No. 100.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 566. Most Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government have directed Sir H. Layard to inform the Sultan confidentially that they are fully resolved to insist on the evacuation by Russia of the Balkan Peninsula in May next, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, and to assure His Majesty that, if force should be necessary, they will co-operate with the Porte for that purpose.

They have also directed Her Majesty's Representative at Bucharest to inform the Roumanian Government confidentially of the nature of the communication which has been made to the Sultan, and to assure them that they will receive the fullest moral support from Her Majesty's Government in insisting on their right to the Dobrudscha without making any condition as to giving the Russians the right of military passage through the ceded territory.

They have further directed him to state that, if Roumania should now bind herself to give a military passage to Russia, she will, in the event of such a war, compromise her neutrality.

If your Excellency should think it desirable to communicate this information to Count Andrassy, I authorize you to do so, taking care to observe to him that you are speaking in the strictest confidence. It must, however, rest entirely with your Excellency's discretion whether you will make this communication or not.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 101.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Major Wilson.

(No. 11.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1878.*

I HAVE read with much interest the observations contained in your depatch, No. 8, Confidential, of the 10th ultimo, on the questions raised at the meetings of the Commissioners for the Delimitation of the Servian frontier.

I have now to state to you that the views you have taken on the points to which you have called my attention meet with my entire approval.

I now transmit for your information and guidance copies of the documents as marked in the margin,* from which you will learn the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to a suggestion made by the Russian Government, that the line of

* M. de Giers to M. Bartholomei (Telegraphic), October 23, 1878; and Lord Salisbury to M. Bartholomei, October 25, 1878

frontier to be traced by the Servian Commission should not be submitted for the approval of the Bulgarian Commissioners.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 102.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Beust.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1878.*

WITH reference to the despatch addressed by Count Andrassy to Baron de Ripp, which your Excellency communicated to me this afternoon, I have the honour to reply that Her Majesty's Government observe with satisfaction that the Imperial and Royal Austro-Hungarian Government accept the view which I have instructed the British Representatives to maintain with respect to the competence of the Servian Commission. Being appointed, not in pursuance of a Treaty stipulation, but simply as a matter of convenience, it cannot, without the formal consent of the Powers, discharge the duties which have been confided to the Bulgarian Commission.

Her Majesty's Government concur with Count Andrassy that this consent may be most conveniently obtained by submitting the determinations of the Servian Commission, when they are complete, to the Bulgarian Commission for approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 103.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Beust.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1878.*

I HAVE duly considered the despatch from Count Andrassy which your Excellency was good enough to communicate to me to-day, respecting the Danubian Commission, and I have to request that you will state to the Government of Austria-Hungary, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government share their views that the work of the Commission should be commenced without delaying for the organization of the Bulgarian Government, and the attendance of a Bulgarian Delegate.

Her Majesty's Government are also not disposed to raise any question as to the sufficiency of the powers of a Roumanian Delegate, pending the recognition of the independence of Roumania.

They cannot but recognize that the regulations for the navigation and police of the river from the Iron Gates to Galatz are of primary importance to the Government of Austria-Hungary, and on this point as generally on the whole question, they would be glad to co-operate in the most cordial manner with Count Andrassy.

If, therefore, your Excellency will do me the honour of communicating to me the sense of the instructions which your Government propose to give to their Delegate, Her Majesty's Government will carefully consider them, and I do not doubt that they will be able to give similar instructions to the Commissioner appointed to act on behalf of Great Britain.

I have, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 104.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Count Beust.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, November 5, 1878.*

IN reply to the inquiry which your Excellency addressed to me to-day, when communicating to me the despatch from Count Andrassy to Baron de Ripp respecting the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely concur with the Imperial Government in thinking that the Commission for the Delimitation of Eastern Roumelia should confine itself to those

portions of that province which do not abut upon Bulgaria. Its appointment is not prescribed by the Treaty, and has been agreed to by Her Majesty's Government at the instance of the Government of Russia, in order to facilitate the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. But it cannot, without the formal sanction of the Powers, assume duties which the Treaty has assigned to the European Commission named in Article II.

I take this opportunity of expressing the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learned the good understanding between the Representatives of Great Britain and Austria-Hungary on the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia; the proposal of Baron Kallai, embodying the principles of organization, having, according to a telegram received to-day, after consultation with Her Majesty's Representative and M. Ring, been passed unanimously with one immaterial alteration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 105.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 462. Confidential.)
Rome, November 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD yesterday my first interview, since my return from leave of absence, with Count Maffei, who, in the absence of Signor Cairoli, now in attendance upon the King at Monza, and who is to accompany their Majesties in a tour through Central and Southern Italy, is charged with the direction of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs.

It was natural that I should express regret at the resignation of Count Corti, with whom I have long been on terms of intimacy, and this gave me an opportunity of stating that I trusted his retirement was not to be understood as indicating any change in the foreign policy of the Italian Government, which Count Corti had conducted in a manner to gain the confidence and esteem of every foreign Government.

Count Maffei assured me that it was not; that Count Corti had left the Government for reasons quite unconnected with foreign policy, with the allusion to which in Signor Cairoli's speech at Pavia he had been perfectly satisfied.

I expressed the pleasure with which I heard this, for I could not conceal from Count Maffei that the apparently lukewarm support which Count Corti had received from his colleagues, in the midst of the ebullition of feeling with which he had been greeted on his return from the Congress of Berlin, where by his prudent and conciliatory conduct he had secured for himself and his country the sympathy and goodwill of all the statesmen there assembled, had not failed to create certain misgivings abroad, and to make people anxious as to the future policy of the Italian Government in regard to foreign Powers.

I alluded to the unrestrained meetings of the "Italia irredenta," where language was held which could not fail to produce the greatest irritation in Austria, with whom it was so much the interest of Italy to cultivate the best relations. All this movement in Italy since the Congress of Berlin had, I said, done an infinite amount of mischief to the position of Italy abroad, and had gone a long way to lose her the sympathy of those who, when the unity of Italy had been accomplished, had been led, by the repeated declarations of her statesmen, to believe that Italy would become an element of peace in Europe, and not the promoter of international troubles and complications.

I authorized Count Maffei to report this language to Signor Cairoli, and to add that I was sure his Excellency would understand that, in the present state of the Eastern question, any action on the part of the Italian Government which might be calculated to weaken Austria could not but be a matter of deep concern to Her Majesty's Government.

Count Maffei replied that he should certainly inform Signor Cairoli of what I had said. He admitted the evil effect of the meetings and agitation to which I had alluded. He hoped the Government might place themselves in a correct position as regards Austria (meaning thereby that they would put some restraint upon the Irredentist agitation), in which case no one would have a right to complain if the well-known voids in the Italian army were filled up, so as to place the army in a more complete condition for defensive purposes. There was, Count Maffei said, a very bad feeling in Austria towards Italy, so much so that Count Robilant had recently said it would be of no use sending an Italian Military Attaché to Vienna, for he would be shown

nothing, whereas the King had received with marked attention Major Haymerle, the Military Attaché to the Austrian Embassy here, on the occasion of the manœuvres in the north of Italy.

I asked Count Maffei if he could be surprised if what had been taking place in Italy had created a bad feeling in Austria. Of course, if the Italian Government chose to spend millions uselessly in making armaments no one could prevent them, but as there was no State which had the smallest intention of attacking Italy, no declarations which could be made would induce people to believe that they were undertaken for simply defensive purposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 106.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 464.)
Rome, November 1, 1878.

My Lord,

IN the interview I had with Count Maffei yesterday, he informed me that, on the 29th ultimo, the French Ambassador had read and left him a copy of a despatch from his Government, in which, after briefly recapitulating the incidents in the direct negotiations which, in conformity with the deliberations of the Congress, Greece had initiated with Turkey for a rectification of frontier, the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, referring to the demand recently addressed to the Powers by the Cabinet of Athens, invoking the benefit of the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, expresses the opinion that the moment has arrived when the Six Powers should express, by means of an identic and simultaneous note, the desire that the Porte should adhere explicitly to the principle of a rectification of frontier in favour of Greece, and should name its Commissioners to study, with those of the Greek Government, the conditions of the new boundary line.

The French Ambassador, while stating that a similar communication was of course being made to the other Governments, appealed with special confidence to that of Italy, in consideration of the initiative which, in the Congress, was taken in common by the French and Italian Plenipotentiaries in regard to this matter, and Count Maffei at once informed the Marquis de Noailles that Italy would willingly accede to the proposal of his Government, and would wait for a further communication from it as to the time, the mode, and the precise form of the representation to be addressed to the Porte.

The Italian Government is desirous of knowing the answer of the other Cabinets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 107.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 883. Most Confidential.)
Paris, November 4, 1878.

My Lord,

ON the day before yesterday M. Waddington said to me that he wished your Lordship to be made acquainted most confidentially with the substance of verbal communications which had recently taken place between Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador, and himself, on the subject of the Russian proceedings in the Balkan Peninsula.

He had (he told me) said some days ago to Prince Orloff that, up to a short time before, he had entertained no serious doubts about the punctual execution of the Treaty of Berlin, but that the language held by high Russian officials in Turkey, the movements of the Russian troops in that country, and various minor occurrences, had since very much shaken his confidence.

There were (he had gone on to say to Prince Orloff) evidently two currents of opinion at the Court of Russia, the one in favour of the moderate prudent policy of Count Schouvaloff and other sensible men, the other in favour of the extreme and

hazardous policy of General Ignatieff. Roumelia seemed to be full of General Ignatieff's partisans, and Prince Tzeretelew, the General's former Secretary, was taking a very remarkable part in the European Commission for organizing Eastern Roumelia. General Ignatieff himself had been in Paris a short time before. M. Waddington had not seen him, but he was informed that his language tallied exactly with that of the Russian officials in Roumelia, and that there could be no doubt that he was in direct correspondence with those officials.

After this preface, M. Waddington had (he told me) proceeded to point out to Prince Orloff that the language of the Russian Government was in direct contradiction to that of its officers in Roumelia. Which, he had asked the Prince, expressed the real sentiments of the Emperor Alexander? It was, he had said, most important to the French Government to know this. The policy of France was directed to one simple object, the punctual execution of the Treaty of Berlin. All the influence of the French Government would be exerted, quietly and unostentatiously, to the attainment of this object, for they were convinced that in the loyal fulfilment of the stipulations of the Treaty by all the Powers parties to it lay the sole hope of maintaining peace.

In conclusion, M. Waddington had (he said) asked Prince Orloff whether it was not time for the Emperor of Russia to declare distinctly and positively what his real policy was.

On the 31st of last month (a few days after this conversation took place) Prince Orloff had, M. Waddington said, come to him and told him that he had not only made in an official despatch a full report of what M. Waddington had said, but had written a private letter to M. de Giers, to be shown to the Emperor, in which he had expressed a strong personal opinion in favour of the punctual execution of the Treaty, and of moderate counsels generally.

M. Waddington begged me to communicate to your Lordship what had passed between Prince Orloff and himself, but at the same time to impress upon you that it was communicated by him in the strictest confidence.

M. Waddington appeared to attach great importance to the private letter written by Prince Orloff to M. de Giers; but Prince Orloff is believed to have written strongly in favour of moderation ever since the troubles in the East began, and in particular to have earnestly deprecated the war between Russia and Turkey up to the moment at which it broke out.

I did not understand M. Waddington to have intended to convey to Prince Orloff any hint that France herself might take part in the war, which would, he feared, be the consequence of a failure to carry into effect the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 108.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 975.) *Therapia, November 6, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

CLAIMS of Kustendje Railway Company upon the Porte were submitted to arbitration before meeting of Congress of Berlin. Porte now declines to proceed with arbitration, on the grounds that by the LIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin all its rights and obligations with regard to public works and other enterprizes of a like nature in the ceded territory are transferred to Roumania.

Railway Company's agent protests against this decision. Am I to support him? Matter presses.

No. 109.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 181.) *St. Petersburgh, November 6, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

M. DE GIERS has sent me, through M. de Melnikoff, further explanations respecting the proceedings of the Russian Commissioner in Bulgaria. He denies that

any tithes had been farmed, and says that money sent to Sofia was to pay for the maintenance of the militia and army of occupation. At that time the financial administration was in Russian hands, and Commissioner had the right to dispose of the resources of the province.

M. de Giers promised to reply later to my two communications of the 24th ultimo, and in the meanwhile repeats assurance that Russia has no idea of infringing Treaty of Berlin, but is taking utmost trouble to make Turkey execute it.

M. de Giers has applied to Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to verify statements of Lord Donoughmore.

No. 110.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 6, 1878.*

CRETAN Firman is shortly to be submitted to the Commission. I have not yet seen it, but only the demands put forward by Cretan delegates.

In these the Deputies are to be limited to Mussulmans and Christians, thus imposing disabilities on Jews. Will this be in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, Article No. LXII, which we, in our proposal for Eastern Roumelia, have established as a principal basis?

No. 111.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 5, 1878.*

ORDERS have been issued for the disbandment on the 17th instant of the whole of the Servian militia with the exception of one brigade.

No. 112.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 6, 1878, 2·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to suggestion of British Boundary Commissioner contained in Mr. Gould's telegram of yesterday, inquire whether Porte is prepared to re-occupy with Turkish troops territory reverting to Turkey, which is now held by Servians, before the 13th instant.

On learning wishes of Porte, Her Majesty's Government will take steps to communicate them to the Servian Government.

No. 113.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 566.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 6, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency has had communicated to you with my despatch No. 534 of the 10th ultimo a copy of the telegraphic despatch from M. de Giers dated the 26th September / 7th October, describing the condition of the Turkish territory in Europe recently evacuated by the Russian forces, and the massacres and ill-treatment to which the Christian populations have been subjected by the Mussulmans.

Since the receipt of that document inquiries have been made on the spot by three English officers attached to the International Commission for the delimitation of the Bulgarian frontiers, in whose impartiality Her Majesty's Government place every confidence.

These officers, who have visited the country in which the massacres and outrages are alleged to have been committed, state that it is perfectly tranquil; that the

Turkish authorities have taken all the measures in their power to protect the lives and property of the Christian population; and that though a few isolated acts of assassination, prompted apparently by revenge, have been reported, nothing in the nature of massacre has, so far as they can ascertain, taken place.

Similar evidence has reached Her Majesty's Government through their Consular Officers from different points of the Turkish territory which has been evacuated.

It would appear, then, from such information as Her Majesty's Government, who are animated by a sincere desire to ascertain the real facts of the case, have been able to obtain, that there is no confirmation of the statements which have reached M. de Giers, that grave disasters had taken place in the localities from which the Russian troops had retired, and that Christians had been massacred at Silivria.

Neither, so far as they have been able to learn, is the further statement supported which alleges that the Christian populations, on seeing authority restored to those who had committed so many atrocities upon them before the arrival of the Russian troops, had fled in despair, and had joined *en masse* the retreating Russian troops.

So far as Her Majesty's Government is aware, no "atrocities" had ever been committed by the Mussulmans upon the Christians in the districts in question, although the Christians may have complained of bad government. They are further informed, on evidence derived from many quarters, that only a portion of the Bulgarian population has accompanied the Russian forces in their retrograde movement.

Moreover, they understand that the Porte has taken measures to reassure and protect the Christians, which appear to have been attended by good results, and that no time was lost by it, on the representations of the Russian Government, in sending a High Commissioner to concert further steps with the Russian authorities for this object.

I request that your Excellency will have the goodness to communicate a copy of this despatch to M. de Giers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 114.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 483 A.)
Foreign Office, November 6, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT MÜNSTER asked me to-day what answer Her Majesty's Government proposed to give to M. Waddington's Circular respecting Greece. It appeared from his Excellency's language that Germany, as well as Austria, Italy, and Russia, had resolved to adhere to the French proposal, and under these circumstances I said that that England would not refuse her general concurrence to the suggestion of mediation to which, under the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, she had already given her assent, but I thought that the form proposed by M. Waddington might probably be modified so as to make it more fair as between Turkey and Greece, instead of being a menace addressed to Turkey. I added that the time appeared to me inopportune for such a step; that the events in Bosnia, Albania, and Macedonia had so highly excited Mahommedan feeling that the cession of any portion of Epirus was not at this moment to be looked for, and that the result of the proposed mediation might be to lead to a general revolt of the mountaineers. I regretted, therefore, that the Powers had not thought fit to delay this step until the positive stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin had been carried out.

I held similar language to the Austrian and Italian Ambassadors, and to the Greek Chargé d'Affaires, who also questioned me on the subject.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 115.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1367.)
Foreign Office, November 6, 1878.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will have received from Mr. Gould a telegram from the British Commissioner for the delimitation of the Servian frontier, dated from Vranja,

stating that he hopes that the work in that direction will very shortly be completed, and suggesting that it should be arranged that the Turks should occupy the new frontier before the 13th instant.

I have to request that you will ascertain from the Porte whether this arrangement would be agreeable to them, and whether they are prepared to reoccupy with Turkish troops the territory reverting to Turkey, which is now held by the Servians, by the day specified.

When Her Majesty's Government have learnt what are the wishes of the Porte, they will be prepared to recommend them to the favourable consideration of the Servian Government.

I have communicated to your Excellency the substance of the above by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 116.

Sir L. Simmons to Lord Odo Russell.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Sir L. Simmons, November 7.)

My Lord,

July 11, 1878.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that I attended the meeting of the Special Boundary Commission at 9 P.M. yesterday, when Colonel Blume, the President, informed me that he had no instructions, but that he expected Prince Hohenlohe would attend to give them.

The Prince soon after came in, as also Baron Haymerle, when he informed us that your Commission had settled the boundary line from the Black Sea to Zewin, and that we were to verify the description which had been drawn up by your Commission, and that we specialists should not interfere with it.

His Royal Highness the Prince then asked me if I had the map with me that had been given by Count Schouvaloff to Lord Salisbury in London, as the Commission had decided that the line traced thereon was to be followed, so as to include the valley of Bayazid and Alashgerd, and the commercial road through it, within the dominion of the Sultan.

Colonel Blume proposed that Captain Ardagh, in conjunction with a Russian officer, Colonel Bogaliubow, should draw up a description of the line; and Captain Ardagh had commenced when the Russian officer disappeared, saying he wanted to get another map.

After a lapse of more than half an hour he returned with a map, with an entirely new line I had never seen before, marked, when I said I understood we had nothing to do with the selection of a new line, but merely to define the one which had been agreed to by your Commission, viz., that on Count Schouvaloff's map. He went out of the room again, and soon after Count Schouvaloff entered with your Lordship, when Count Schouvaloff made a statement that he had traced his line in London under a misapprehension as to a description he had received by telegraph from St. Petersburgh, that he ought to have traced it to the southward, but that, of course, he was bound by what he had said, and he accepted the boundary as traced by him, but he wished that, instead of following a direct line like a railroad, it should be traced "géographiquement."

After you had retired Colonel Bogaliubow, the Russian Delegate, proposed that, instead of commencing at the point near Karyourgan on the San Stefano line, as shown on the Russian map, we should start from a point on the road to the southward, and, making a sweep round, pass on to Miginguerd.

I objected, as there was no necessity on geographic grounds, to the line as drawn by Count Schouvaloff.

He insisted strongly upon this change near Zewin, when I asked him if it was not intended thereby to include the military position of Zewin in Russia, whereupon he acknowledged it, and a Russian officer who had been Consul-General at Erzeroum, who was present, said that Count Schouvaloff had declared that he accepted his own line subject to its being corrected "géographiquement et défensivement."

I, however, insisted that Count Schouvaloff had not made use of the expression "défensivement," which was acknowledged generally by all present.

I regret to say that the German Delegate immediately took up the question of defence, when I stated that I had come to the meeting without any intention of

discussing any modification in a military sense, but only to define a line as decided by your Commission, which was what your Lordship informed me was the purport of our meeting; that I only knew of the position by name as one in which the Turks, during the war, had repulsed an attack, and that I had heard it spoken of as a very strong defensive position, and that, as it was given to Turkey by Count Schouvaloff's line, it ought to remain in her possession.

After some discussion the President, having gone out of the room in the meanwhile, announced to us that the question would be submitted to, and decided by, the Congress. We were about to break up when Count Schouvaloff came in and said that your Commission had decided that the possession of the position of Zewin and the trace of the line skirting the valley of Alashgerd and Bayazid was to be left for future arrangement between Russia and Turkey.

I have no personal knowledge of the position in question, but from the importance attached to it by the Russian officers, and from the report I have heard of it from an English officer who was there during the war, it is evident that its loss will constitute a serious breach in the defence of the road leading from Kars to Erzeroum, as also in that of the road from Erzeroum to Bayazid, as its possession by Russia will render the defence of the road east of Keupri-keui, where the two roads diverge, quite impossible.

It is, therefore, of great importance, especially with reference to the defensive Treaty concluded with Turkey, that this position should not be ceded, but that Count Schouvaloff's own line should be maintained in its integrity. I append a description of it which can be drawn on the ground without difficulty.

The value of the territory is almost nil, as it consists chiefly of mountain pasturage, with only a few small and insignificant villages in the valley of the Araxes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

P.S.—Should Zewin be ceded, there will remain no defensive position in which a Russian invasion could be checked between the Russian frontier and Devi Boyoun, which is close to Erzeroum, and, in fact, may be considered as the immediate defence of that city.

J. L. A. S.

No. 117.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 196.)
Belgrade, October 22, 1878.

My Lord,

THE following Decree relative to the reorganization of the Servian standing army and militia appeared in the official paper of this date:—

I.

The standing army is to be under the orders of one Commander, and to consist of—

(*a.*) An infantry brigade of two regiments, each regiment having five battalions.
(*b.*) A brigade of artillery of four regiments, each regiment having seven heavy and one mountain batteries, the latter divided into two sections.
(*c.*) An engineer corps, composed of sappers and miners, with a pontoon-train, and workshops at Chonpria.
(*d.*) A cavalry regiment of four squadrons.

In addition to the above there will be a proportionate number of hospital nurses (male), military workmen, smiths, and drivers of the military train.

II.—*Militia.*

Divided into first and second class, and organized in corps, divisions, and brigades, bearing the designation of the territorial districts to which they belong.

1st Corps.—Shumadia. Staff at Belgrade.

1st Division, staff at Semendria—
- 1st Brigade, Belgrade.
- 2nd „ Semendria.

2nd Division, Shumadia; staff at Kragujevatz—
- 1st Brigade, Kragujevatz.
- 2nd „ Rudnik.
- 3rd „ Jagodina.

2nd Corps.—Timok. Staff at Negotin.

1st Division, Danube; staff at Pojarevatz—
- 1st Brigade, Pojarevatz.
- 2nd „ Branitcheno.
- 3rd „ Kraina.

2nd Division, Timok; staff at Zaïtchar—
- 1st Brigade, Cernoricka.
- 2nd „ Knijevatz.
- 3rd „ Choupria.

3rd Corps.—Morava. Staff at Nish.

1st Division, Nish; staff at Nish—
- 1st Brigade, Nish.
- 2nd „ Pirat.
- 3rd „ Alexinatz.

2nd Division, Morava; staff at Vranja—
- 1st Brigade, Vranja.
- 2nd „ Prokuplje.
- 3rd „ Krushevatz.

4th Corps.—Drina. Staff at Valievo.

1st Division, Drina; staff at Schabatz—
- 1st Brigade, Schabatz.
- 2nd „ Valievo.
- 3rd „ Podrinan.

2nd Division, Ibar; staff at Ujitza—
- 1st Brigade, Ujitza.
- 2nd „ Chachak.

A regiment of artillery of the standing army will be attached to each of the four corps into which the militia is divided.

According to the new organization the militia will form four army corps, eight divisions, and twenty-two brigades; and the standing army will be increased by six battalions of infantry, two squadrons of cavalry, and twenty batteries of artillery.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 118.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 198.)
Belgrade, October 25, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 192 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to add that the only Sovereigns who have yet formally recognized the assumption by Prince Milan of the title of His Highness are the Emperor of Russia and the King of Italy, although, as I have already stated, the Emperor of Austria signified his inten-

tion of doing so even before he received the official notification of this change of title.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 119.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 199.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 25, 1878.

ON the side of Bulgaria the Servian troops have, it appears, from the very first retained positions beyond the limits assigned to the Principality by the Treaty of Berlin, as M. Ristich himself took care to inform me in justification of a similar breach of good faith in regard to Turkish territory. I have now heard, on trustworthy authority, that what the Ottoman Government so long submitted to without a word of protest has been summarily put an end to by the Russian Governor-General at Sophia, and that the Servian troops have been compelled to withdraw from Bulgaria, a Servian detachment at Zaitchar having even been disarmed and sent back under escort to its own territory.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 120.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 201.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 25, 1878.

YOUR Lordship is aware from the tenour of my previous correspondence that the Servian Government persists in acting in open defiance of its Treaty obligations by refusing to withdraw its troops from the advanced positions they occupy to this day beyond Vranja and Prepolac. In the not improbable event of fresh political complications these positions would, in the opinion of military men, become of great strategical importance for aggressive purposes. It would, therefore, be highly desirable that the Servian troops should be compelled to evacuate them as soon as the International Boundary Commission has concluded the task of making out that section of the frontier, which is in all probability the most it will be able to accomplish before the next spring. Although I have carefully avoided raising any discussion on the subject, I have, nevertheless, much reason to apprehend, from the guarded language held to me by M. Ristich, that when the time comes for insisting on the point the Servian Government will, on one pretext or another, allege their inability to retire from their present positions until the Boundary Commission has at least terminated its task as regards the whole of the Servo-Turkish frontier.

Under the above circumstances, I have but very little hope that any representations I may have occasion to address to M. Ristich on the subject will produce the desired effect, unless they are strongly supported by the Agents of the other Signatory Powers, or, at any rate, by a majority of them. The French, Italian, and Russian Agents here now admit that they were fully aware that Prince Milan and his Government had not complied with the stipulations of Article XLI of the Treaty; but the two former maintain that they did not consider themselves called upon to notice this infraction of the Treaty, as they had not received any instructions to that effect from their respective Governments. The Austrian Agent also tells me he is without instructions, and the German is for the present absent on leave.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 121.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 203.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 25, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 193 of the 18th instant, on the subject of the Bosnian refugees in Servia, I stated that the Austro-Hungarian Government had granted them a full and complete amnesty. Having since had occasion to see the notification addressed to the Servian Government with regard to the return of these unfortunate people to their homes, I find to my regret that I committed a slight inaccuracy. The term amnesty does not occur in the text of the Note. The expression employed is that all those who have not borne arms against the Imperial troops as well as those who have done so are granted permission to return to their homes freely and without fear of molestation. The wording of the above sentence appears to me to express with sufficient clearness the merciful intentions of the Austro-Hungarian Government towards these refugees, and I would not have reverted to the matter were it not that, owing to the omission of the term amnesty, some of them hesitate to go back to their homes. It is by no means unlikely that this hesitation on their part is due more to the influence brought to bear upon them by parties, whose interest it is to misrepresent the conduct of the Imperial troops in Bosnia, than to any mistrust they may really entertain of the intentions of the Austro-Hungarian Government towards them. It is, however, a fact that by far the greater number of them have returned to Bosnia, and that the rest will soon have to follow their example, as the Servian Government has, if I am rightly informed, signified that under the circumstances it cannot continue to provide for them.

A few of the Begs, who are too deeply implicated in the resistance offered to the army of occupation ever to feel perfectly secure in the hands of the Austro-Hungarian authorities, and who possess the means of existence, may possibly prefer remaining in Servia, where their presence will be welcome for political reasons.

The pervading mania of getting up addresses, the origin and object of which are patent, has already extended to this country. An address, purporting to be signed by two of these Begs in the name of the others, has, I believe, been forwarded to the Emperor of Russia, calling upon His Imperial Majesty to extend his protection to them. Another has likewise appeared which is supposed to convey the thanks of the refugee Bosnians to their Servian brethren for the hospitality they have received at their hands. That the former should feel grateful to the latter is only too natural; but whether any of these Bosnian refugees conceived the idea or had to do with the drawing up of this address is a matter which it would be extremely interesting to ascertain, were such a thing possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 122.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 205.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, October* 27, 1878.

IT appears that for some time back a tendency has manifested itself amongst the Servian clergy, who, as your Lordship is aware, all belong to the Orthodox Greek Rite, to sever the slender ties which still connect them with the Greek Patriarchate of Constantinople, and to establish an independent national Church.

In the Synod, which has just been held here under the presidency of the Metropolitan of Servia, and which was fully attended by the Servian Bishops, the question was, I am told, discussed at considerable length, and resolutions were adopted in favour of the separation of the two Churches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 123.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 208.)
Belgrade, October 30, 1878.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH it is exceedingly difficult to obtain at Belgrade anything in the shape of reliable information or to know whom to trust, there can scarcely be any doubt that Servia is secretly preparing to play a part in the political complications which it is confidently expected will break out afresh at an early date. A sudden change seems to have come over the views of the Servian Government since M. Ristich's return from his short leave of absence at Carlsbad. Before his Excellency's departure for that watering-place, I am inclined to believe he had made up his mind to submit to the decisions of the Berlin Congress, however unpalatable they may have been to him, and to give up, for the moment at least, all schemes for the further aggrandisement of Servia. I am, therefore, totally at a loss to account for so sudden and radical a change of policy on the part of this country, except on the mere supposition that it has been brought about by Russian influence, and that Prince Milan and his Government think the moment is at hand when, by boldly favouring Russian designs against Turkey as well as against the continued occupation of Bosnia by Austria, they may obtain additional territory and an increase of power. The inducements held out to them must be very great indeed, for, in throwing in their lot with Russia, they cannot but be aware of the immense risks they are exposing themselves to of losing their lately-acquired independence. It is, however, just possible that they may only be taking precautionary measures, in order to be fully prepared in the present unsettled state of affairs for any emergency which may arise; but it is difficult to conceive any combination of circumstances so adverse to Servia as to place her independence in danger as long as she loyally conforms to her Treaty obligations. In any case, it is very strange that, at a moment when her finances are at such a very low ebb, unusual activity should be observed in her military workshops and foundries, and that large contracts should be concluded with Austrian manufacturers for uniforms and other military supplies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 124.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 209.)
Belgrade, October 31, 1878.

My Lord,

REFERRING to my despatch No. 198 of the 25th instant, relative to the assumption by Prince Milan Obrenowitch of the title of His Highness, I have further to state to your Lordship that the Emperor of Germany has caused the Servian Government to be informed by telegraph that His Imperial Majesty's Consul-General at Belgrade would shortly present to Prince Milan in person a note, formally recognising his new title.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 125.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 211.)
Belgrade, October 31, 1878.

My Lord,

IT is publicly announced that Prince Milan, with the Princess, the hereditary Prince, and the whole of their household, will proceed in a very few days to Nisch, where they will permanently take up their residence for the next six months. The Skuptchina, which will probably meet on the 4th December next, is likewise to hold its sittings at Nisch, and, as usual, all the Ministers will have to reside there during the entire Session.

This decision has taken every one by surprise, and given currency to all sorts of rumours of a disquieting nature. It is even said that this is but the first step towards

the definite transfer of the seat of Government to Nisch, owing to the unpleasant proximity of Belgrade to the Austro-Hungarian frontier.

From all the accounts which reach me, Nisch is at present little else than a third or fourth class Turkish town—in other words, a konak and barracks, around which are grouped a number of mud hovels, interspersed here and there with a few houses of a better, but still very inferior, description. Such a place could only be appropriated for the seat of Government at an enormous cost, which the Servian Treasury is certainly very ill-prepared to meet. As far as I can discover, its chief and only superiority over Belgrade is, that it is about the furthest and most inaccessible point which could well be chosen in regard to Austria and Western Europe, and the nearest to the territories in the occupation of the Russian armies. It is therefore sincerely to be hoped that such a project, if it is really entertained, will be abandoned on further consideration. Even so, Prince Milan's absence from Belgrade for six months, and also that of all his Ministers during the Session of the Skuptchina, which, I hear, may on this occasion extend over many weeks, will be attended with very serious inconvenience as regards the political relations of his Government with foreign Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 126.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 212. Secret and Confidential.)
Belgrade, October 31, 1878.

My Lord,

THE fact of Prince Milan taking up his residence permanently for the whole winter in such a place as Nisch, and causing the Skuptchina also to meet there, would be perfectly unaccountable were there not some very serious political reasons to induce him to come to such a decision. Were he not completely under Russian influence, as is daily more and more evident, and as is freely admitted by one of his staunchest supporters, the Italian Agent here, he would not thus seek to isolate himself from the Representatives of the other Great Powers, and place himself in such close contact with the Russian authorities at Sophia. Unless he also meditated some overt act whereby he would incur the displeasure of Austria and the other Great Powers which act with her, he would have no cause to dread the proximity of his capital to her frontiers.

What the nature of that act may be it is so far impossible to do more than surmise; but judging from the utterances of the Russian Agent and Servian military men, as well as from the information which reaches me from various quarters, coupled with my own personal observations, I am led to infer that Servia is on the point of combining with Russia in some scheme intended to neutralize the effect produced by the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina. That object might be attained either by secretly fostering a fresh insurrection in the above-named provinces, and openly supporting it in case it should prove successful, or by causing Prince Milan to be named Prince of Bulgaria with the assistance of Russia, and thus forming under direct Russian protection a powerful Slav State, which, from its position, would prove a very serious danger to Austria, and probably hasten her withdrawal from the territories she has recently occupied.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 127.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 10.) [B.B.]
Nisch, October 23, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Brigadier-General Jahja Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner, having arrived at Nisch on the 20th instant, the first formal meeting of the Servian Boundary Commission was held on the 22nd instant.

M. Aubaret, the French Commissioner, was elected President, and the following decisions were arrived at:—

1. That questions of form or procedure should be decided by a majority of votes, and that on questions of principle, such as those connected with the delimitation of the frontier, there should be unanimity of opinion amongst the Commissioners. At my suggestion the latter decision was slightly modified to admit of the settlement of unimportant questions by a majority of votes.

2. The Commissioners of the other Powers stated formally that they were authorized to mark the Servo-Bulgarian boundary, if there were unanimity of opinion on this point in the Commission. The Turkish Commissioner stated that he intended writing to Constantinople for fresh instructions, and I read to the Commission the telegram on this subject received from your Lordship through Mr. Gould.

3. That the Commission should commence work at Vranja.

4. That the boundary as defined by the Commission should be laid down on a sketch ("croquis"). In the discussion on this point the Russian Commissioner mentioned that his Government had ordered surveys to be made of all the new boundaries in Turkey in Europe, such surveys to include the country for three kilometres, nearly two miles, on each side of the frontier; and that an officer and four assistants had been selected for Servia. The feeling of the majority of the Commission was that such a survey was not necessary for the purposes for which they were appointed.

A copy of the protocol which, though not yet signed, has been read to and accepted by the Commissioners is inclosed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 127.

Protocol No. 1 of Sitting of the Servian Boundary Commission, held at Nisch, October 22, 1878.

AUJOURD'HUI Mardi, 22 Octobre, 1878, à 10 heures et demie du matin, la Commission étant au complet, a tenu sa première séance.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. le Major d'Alten;

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Major Bilimek;

Pour la France—
M. le Consul-Général Aubaret;

Pour la Grande Bretagne—
M. le Major Wilson;

Pour l'Italie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Gola;

Pour la Russie—
M. le Colonel Baron Kaulbars;

Pour la Serbie—
M. le Colonel Jovanovitch;

Pour la Turquie—
M. le Général Jahja Pacha.

La séance ayant été ouverte, il a été d'abord procédé à l'élection du Président.

M. Aubaret, Président provisoire, a été élu à l'unanimité Président de la Commission.

La proposition ayant été faite de décider de quelle façon seraient résolues les questions de forme et celles de principe, chacun de MM. les Commissaires a donné son avis, et il a été convenu que les questions de forme seraient résolues à la majorité des voix, tandis que l'unanimité est nécessaire pour les questions de principe. Sur l'observation de *M. le Major Wilson*, que parmi ces questions de principe il peut s'en trouver de moindre importance pour lesquelles l'unanimité n'est pas nécessaire, la Commission est d'avis que ces questions pourront se résoudre à mesure qu'elles viendront à se rencontrer dans la suite des travaux, mais que cela ne peut infirmer le principe de l'unanimité.

Passant à la délimitation de la partie de la frontière qui touche à la Bulgarie, *MM. les Commissaires Allemand, Autrichien, Français, Italien, Russe, Serbe, et Turc* font savoir qu'ils sont autorisés, s'il y a unanimité, à procéder à la délimitation de cette frontière. Cependant *MM. les Commissaires Ottomans* se réservent de demander à ce sujet de nouvelles instructions à leur Gouvernement.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne donne lecture d'un télégramme de son Gouvernement qui l'autorise à procéder aussi à cette délimitation si les autres Puissances y consentent, et à la condition que les travaux seront acceptés par la Commission de Bulgarie. Il est convenu entre MM. les Commissaires que le Président s'adressera sur ce point au Président de la Commission de Bulgarie.

Sur la question de savoir par quel point commenceront les travaux de la Commission, *M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie* fait observer qu'en raison de la saison déjà avancée, il serait très-désirable que les travaux fussent entrepris là où ils offrent le plus d'intérêt, c'est-à-dire à Vranja d'abord et puis à Prépolac. M. le Major Bilimek craint que si la Commission commence par le Kunilug, elle y perde un temps précieux et qu'elle ne puisse, par suite, terminer cette année la délimitation de Vranja et de Prépolac, ce qui, à son point de vue, serait très-regrettable.

MM. les Commissaires se rangent successivement à l'avis de M. le Major Bilimek, sauf M. le Commissaire Italien, qui pense que l'on aurait encore assez de temps pour commencer par le Kunilug qui, de la sorte, serait aussi déterminé cette année, tandis que si les travaux commencent à Vranja, il sera très-probablement impossible d'aller plus tard au Kunilug. Mais la question étant du nombre de celles qui peuvent être résolues à la majorité des voix, la Commission décide qu'elle commencera ses travaux par Vranja et que le Jeudi, 24 courant, elle se mettra en route pour cette ville.

Il reste à décider si les travaux de délimitation seront représentés par une carte ou par un croquis. MM. les Commissaires sont en général d'avis que la confection d'une carte n'est pas de leur compétence, et ils estiment qu'un croquis signé par eux tous est parfaitement suffisant, quitte aux Gouvernements intéressés à dresser ultérieurement la carte du pays délimité.

M. le Commissaire Russe donne communication à ce sujet des mesures que son Gouvernement se propose de prendre. Des topographies doivent être envoyés au mois d'Avril de l'année prochaine, et leur travaux doivent être terminés dans l'espace de sept mois environ.

En résumé, la Commission décide qu'elle se bornera à un croquis dont l'échelle sera déterminée à Vranja.

La séance est levée.

No. 128.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 11. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Nisch, October 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 6, Confidential, dated the 9th October, 1878, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that Lieutenant Ross, of Bladensburg, on his return from Vranja, reported to me that Sandlee, a village beyond the line of frontier first proposed by Austria in the Protocols, was occupied by Servian troops, and that he had been told by Lieutenant-Colonel Michkovitch, now Minister for War, that the Servians had thrown up field works for the defence of a position near that place.

There is a very general feeling amongst the Servian officers in this district that there will be a rising in Bosnia this winter, the Bosniacs, armed with breech-loading rifles, and well supplied with ammunition, having retired to the mountains until the snow falls. The advanced position of the Servians, almost within striking distance of the Mitrovica-Salonica Railway, may possibly be connected with this expected movement of the Bosniacs.

The Commission having now decided to proceed at once with the delimitation of the frontier near Vranja, I trust that the questions connected with that place may soon be settled in a satisfactory manner.

I have also to state that a battery of Servian artillery is stationed at Zaribrod, in Bulgaria, on the road from Nisch to Sophia, and that Trn, a Bulgarian town of some size, situated to the south of Pirot, is also occupied by Servian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 129.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 27.) *Royal Hotel, Pera, October 25, 1878.*

My Lord,

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatch No. 16, dated Foreign Office, the 3rd October, 1878, covering the copy of a despatch from Sir H. D. Wolff, No. 30, dated Therapia, the 15th September, 1878, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have, in accordance with your instructions, placed myself in communication with Sir H. D. Wolff.

What he desires to have appears to be a survey of such a nature that the tithe may be commuted into a land tax, or rent-charge.

For such a survey considerable accuracy is required, and to obtain the requisite accuracy the scale must be a large one.

The Austrian map of Turkey referred to by Sir H. D. Wolff is the best that exists, but it is based on no survey whatever. A square mile on this map (scale $\frac{1}{1,000,000}$) is an exceedingly small quantity; an acre is an invisible quantity.

It is manifest that no enlargement of the Austrian map will be of any use; the errors will be multiplied in the same proportion as the scale. The limit of accuracy on a well-constructed map, being naturally the smallest quantity visible on the scale, if the scale be enlarged errors are introduced which do not exist on, or rather which are not apparent on, the original map.

It was established some months ago, when the survey of Cyprus was under discussion, that the revenue survey of India was on various scales even as large as 16 inches to the mile where the holdings were small, but that in any case a triangulation and preliminary map were requisite.

Assuming that a survey on the scale of 1 inch to a mile is the best for the preliminary survey, and that one-fourth of the country is cultivated and would require a survey on the scale of 3 inches to a mile for revenue purposes, the cost would be as follows:—

	£
62,000 square miles at 25*s.*	76,000
13,000 „ „ 40*s.*	26,000
Total	101,000

A Surveyor's party of six officers and thirty men would probably carry out the work, with native assistance, in from five to six years. These figures are so large that I believe Sir H. D. Wolff has determined to take no further steps in the matter.

A rapid military sketch of the country could be made in a much shorter time, and at a far less cost. Such a sketch would, however, afford no aid whatever in an attempt to convert a tithe into a land tax.

I am unable to see how the officers of the Commission can help in this matter beyond taking notes of the number of houses, &c., in the various villages through which they may pass; but this information will be very slight, as their duties do not lead them beyond the circumference represented by the frontier.

I have no figures or books of reference beside me, but I think it will be found that the area of Eastern Roumelia is but little inferior to that of Ireland, and when the tithe in Ireland was commuted into a land tax, and a general valuation of the country made, now about thirty years ago, the cost of the survey was upwards of a million, and the time it took to complete about twenty years, the scales being the 1 inch and the 6 inch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 130.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 28.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Royal Hotel, Pera, October 27, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the Protocol of the first meeting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission. The Protocols of the second and third meetings will be forwarded to you so soon as they are printed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

Inclosure in No. 130.

Protocol No. 1 of the Sitting of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission, held at Constantinople, at the Imperial School at Galata-Serai, October 21 (N. S.), 1878.

Étaient présents:

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. von Scheriff, Colonel du 29e Régiment d'Infanterie.
Adjoint: M. Krahmer, Capitaine d'État-Major.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Lieutenant-Colonel Baron de Ripp.
Adjoint: M. le Comte de Wurmbrand, Capitaine d'État-Major.

Pour la France—
M. Lennoyne, Chef d'Escadron d'État-Major.
Adjoint: M. Nicolas, Capitaine du Génie.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
M. R. Home, Colonel d'État-Major.
Adjoint: M. Ardagh, Capitaine d'État-Major.

Pour l'Italie—
M. Orero, Lieutenant-Colonel d'État-Major.
Adjoint: M. Tornaghi, Capitaine d'État-Major.

Pour la Russie—
M. Bogolubow, Colonel d'État-Major.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Tahir Pacha, Général de Brigade d'État-Major.
Simon Effendi (Papasian), Secrétaire.
Chérafétin Effendi, Capitaine du Génie.

MM. les Commissaires se trouvant tous réunis, sur l'invitation officieuse qui leur avait été faite précédemment par le Commissaire Ottoman, déclarent la séance ouverte à 1 heure de l'après-midi.

M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne présente la copie légalisée de la lettre par laquelle sa nomination de Commissaire est notifiée à son Altesse le Grand Vizir, par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Allemagne.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie présente l'original de sa lettre de service, signée par son Excellence le Comte Andrassy.

M. le Commissaire de France présente sa Commission, signée par M. le Maréchal de Mac Mahon et par laquelle M. le Président de la République lui donne pouvoirs de prendre telles mesures et arrêter tels règlements qui seront jugés nécessaires, le tout conformément aux instructions particulières qu'il recevra du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères et sauf l'approbation du Chef de l'État.

M. le Commissaire de la Grande-Bretagne présente sa Commission signée par Sa Majesté la Reine et Impératrice, par laquelle il lui est conféré pleins pouvoirs et autorité pour prendre telles mesures et exécuter tels actes jugés nécessaires pour obtenir le résultat qu'on se propose en instituant la Commission.

M. le Commissaire d'Italie présente une lettre du Chargé d'Affaires, par laquelle il est informé que sa nomination a été annoncée à la Légation de Constantinople par une dépêche de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

M. le Commissaire Russe présente la lettre de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Russie, qui lui annonce sa nomination et lui donne le droit de voter et d'accepter les résolutions prises par la Commission. Le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie se réserve le droit de ne pas accepter après la clôture des travaux de la Commission les décisions pour lesquelles le vote de son Représentant se trouverait du côté de la minorité.

M. le Commissaire Ottoman présente la lettre Grand-Viziellc signée par Son Altesse Safvet Pacha, qui l'accrédite en qualité de Commissaire.

Après la lecture de ces documents *M. de Commissaire de la Grande-Bretagne* fait observer que ses pouvoirs, à lui, sont très-étendus, tandis que ceux de M. le Commissaire Russe contiennent certaines restrictions. M. les Commissaires de l'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie et de Turquie déclarant, d'ailleurs, qu'ils entendent leurs pouvoirs dans le même sens, et avec les mêmes restrictions que M. le Commissaire de Russie, le Colonel Home annonce que, malgré l'étendue des pouvoirs dont il a été muni, son Gouvernement se réserve sa pleine et entière liberté d'action, par analogie avec les pouvoirs moindres des autres Commissaires.

La lecture de ces documents ayant permis de constater que les Puissances sont d'accord pour constituer, d'après la proposition du Gouvernement Russe, une Commission distincte chargée de la délimitation de la frontière Méridionale de la Roumélie Orientale, Son Excellence Tahir Pacha présente le Colonel d'état-Major Tevfik Bey comme Commissaire Ottoman pour cette Commission et son adjoint le Chef d'Escadron d'Etat-Major Helmi Bey ; en conséquence, MM. les Capitaines Krahmer, Comte de Wurmbrand, Nicolas et Tornaghi se séparent de la Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie et se réunissent pour se constituer en Commission de Délimitation de la Roumélie Orientale, en vertu des instructions qu'ils possèdent de leurs Gouvernements respectifs.

M. le Commissaire Français prend la parole ; il exprime le désir de voir la Commission suivre dans cette circonstance les traditions de courtoisie diplomatique qui consistent à donner la Présidence au Représentant de la Puissance territoriale. Il propose, en conséquence, à la Commission, de nommer Son Excellence Tahir Pacha, son Président. M. le Commissaire de la Grande Bretagne appuie cette motion.

M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie, tout en partageant cette opinion, propose l'amendement suivant : Nommer Son Excellence Tahir Pacha, Président, pour toute la durée du séjour de la Commission à Constantinople, comme hommage unanime rendu au Gouvernement Ottoman qui offre l'hospitalité aux Représentants des autres Puissances, et procéder à une nouvelle élection, dans la séance qui précédera le départ de la Commission pour se rendre sur les lieux où elle doit commencer ses travaux.

MM. les Commissaires de l'Allemagne, de l'Italie, et de la Russie, appuient l'amendement proposé par M. le Baron de Ripp.

M. le Colonel von Scherff, sans vouloir préjuger les résultats d'une seconde élection, émet l'avis que le Représentant de la Turquie sera bien plus à même, comme simple Commissaire, de défendre les intérêts de son Gouvernement, n'étant pas gêné par les attributions de la Présidence qui pourront jusqu'à un certain point l'empêcher de se poser en partie.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha répond que les principaux intérêts de la Turquie consistent dans la conservation des points stratégiques nécessaires à la défense des Balkans. Ce principe ayant été déjà établi et la question résolue au Congrès de Berlin, le côté délicat qu'appréhende M. le Colonel von Scherff n'existe plus. Le travail de la Commission se réduit par conséquent à une simple question technique qui sera très facile à résoudre, tous les Commissaires étant des officiers d'Etat-Major.

M. le Colonel Ovcro fait observer que l'objet le plus important est d'assurer pratiquement l'impartialité du Président ; celui-ci ne devrait pas avoir d'intérêts engagés ni d'opinion préconçue dans les questions en discussion. A Constantinople on ne traitera que des questions de principe, tandis que sur le terrain c'est l'application qui peut présenter des difficultés.

M. le Commissaire Français répond qu'il y a naturellement des intérêts plus ou moins graves pour telle ou telle Puissance ; mais aucune d'elles ne peut se considérer comme complétement désintéressée dans cette question.

M. le Colonel Engelhart expose que la Présidence est donnée en vertu de deux principes : (1) la courtoisie diplomatique, et (2) un droit qui résulterait de la territorialité. Il écarte la question de la territorialité, pour les localités où la Commis-

sion est appelée à opérer, et il propose de s'en tenir simplement au principe de courtoisie.

Les avis étant partagés, l'amendement de M. le Baron de Ripp est mis aux voix.

MM. les Représentants d'Allemagne, d'Autriche-Hongrie, d'Italie, et de Russie votent pour l'amendment. Les Représentants de la France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de la Turquie donnent un vote contraire. L'amendement est donc accepté à la majorité par quatre voix contre trois.

MM. les Représentants de la France et de la Grande Bretagne se rallient à la majorité et prient, avec toute la Commission, son Excellence Tahir Pacha de vouloir accepter la Présidence offerte, comme un hommage rendu au Gouvernement Ottoman.

Son Excellence Tahir Pacha accepte.

La Commission passe ensuite à la formation de son bureau Elle prie M. Lemoyne de vouloir bien prendre la direction du secrétariat. *M. le Commissaire Français* accepte et prie la Commission de vouloir bien adjoindre au moins deux Secrétaires, l'un Ottoman et l'autre Russe, au Secrétaire Français qui sera son adjoint et qu'il attend incessamment. La Commission fait droit à sa demande et ajoute un quatrième Secrétaire pris parmi les adjoints de M. le Commissaire de la Grande-Bretagne. Ces quatre Secrétaires seront nommés au même titre, ils signeront les Protocoles.

Le Secrétariat ainsi constitué est placé sous la direction immédiate de M. le Commissaire Français.

La Commission décide de prendre toutes ses décisions à la majorité des voix. Le vote de la minorité sera inséré au Protocole avec l'exposé des motifs, mais ne pourra pas entraver la marche des affaires et laisser en suspens la question agitée. La décision prise à la majorité des voix reste acquise à la Commission. C'est aux Gouvernements seuls qu'appartient le droit indéniable d'accepter ou refuser dans son ensemble, ou en parties, l'instrument diplomatique qui leur sera présenté après la clôture des travaux.

Les procès-verbaux des séances seront tenus sous forme de Protocoles de la façon la plus succinte possible.

M. le Commissaire Français donne lecture d'une lettre du Président de la Commission de Délimitation de la Serbie, touchant la frontière commune à la Serbie et à la Bulgarie, et qui lui a été remise par son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de France. Elle est ainsi conçue :—

"Veuillez transmettre au Président Délimitation Bulgarie : Notre Commission considérant que la vôtre n'a pas de Commissaire Serbe et que votre tâche, déjà très-étendue, serait augmentée, se charge elle seule de la délimitation de la Province Bulgaro-Serbe. Le Commissaire Anglais qui a des instructions opposées, a demandé l'autorisation ; dans le cas où le Commissaire Anglais serait autorisé votre Commission aurait-elle des difficultés ?"

(Signé) "AUBARET."

Après avoir pris connaissance de cette lettre la Commission rédige et expédie au Président de la Commission de Serbie le télégramme suivant :—

"La Commission de Bulgarie ne voit aucune difficulté à ce que la Commission de Serbie se charge de la délimitation de la Province Bulgaro-Serbe.

"Le Président,
(Signé) "TAHIR."

Mr. le Colonel Home fait remarquer que d'après ses instructions, le travail de la Commission de Serbie, en ce qui concerne le tracé de la frontière Serbo-Bulgare, doit comme formalité être approuvé par la Commission de Bulgarie. Les Commissaires des autres Puissances n'ayant pas d'instructions à cet égard, il est entendu que chacun en référera à son Gouvernement.

La Commission décide ensuite de commencer ses travaux par la délimitation de la frontière Roumano-Bulgare. On agite la question de savoir s'il y a lieu d'entrer en relations à ce sujet avec le Gouvernement Roumain. On décide d'adresser au Ministre des Affaires Etrangères à Bucharest le télégramme suivant :—

"La Commission de Délimitation de la Bulgarie sera Samedi 2 Novembre à Silistrie, pour commencer ses travaux par la frontière Roumano-Bulgare. Elle serait heureuse que le Gouvernement Roumain voulût bien lui envoyer quelques

officiers pour la suivre et le cas échéant, exécuter les travaux topographiques jugés nécessaires.

"Le Président,
(Signé) "TAHIR."

La Commission décide que, pour commencer les travaux, on se trouvera réuni à Silistrie le 2 Novembre.

La séance prochaine est fixée à mercredi, 23 Octobre.

La séance est levée à 5 heures.

(Signé) SCHERFF.
RIPP.
J. V. LEMOYNE.
HOME, *Colonel*.
B. ORERO.
A. BOGOLUBOW.
M. TAHIR.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) SIMON PAPASIAN.
H. ARDAGH.

No. 131.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 28A. Confidential.)

Rustchuk, November 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE, since I came to this country, heard so many statements as to the strength of the Russian army, and the intentions of the Russian Government and Russian leaders in the country, which I conceive to be exaggerated, that I venture to outstep the exact line of my duty and write to your Lordship on these subjects.

One great peculiarity of Russian policy, or rather Russian intrigue, is the blustering false statements made by the subordinate agents as to the aim and power of their Government. The attempts these subordinate agents persistently make to improve the position their Government occupies, by any sort of base intrigue, may be accepted, or may be disowned, according to circumstances, by the Central Government.

Russian policy may thus be said to consist in pushing forward a cloud of skirmishers in front, who seek to gain as much as they possibly can. These skirmishers may, or may not, be supported by the solid body of Russian statesmanship from behind, according as circumstances may direct.

Read in this light, the vast web of Russian intrigue which is being spread over the country may be understood. Efforts are being persistently made to represent the Russian army as of great strength, that Russia is prepared, ready, and desirous to break every clause of the Berlin Treaty; and while these statements are being poured into the minds of ignorant semi-savage peasants, with the view of exciting them to overt acts of insurrection, they reach the ears of persons occupying high positions, and tend to make them suspicious of the merest trifles. Meantime, the Central Russian authority bides its time and waits until circumstances either enable it to profit by the acts of its subordinates, or disown them, as the mistakes of over-zealous servants.

This system of two policies, pursued in a country like Turkey, produces, in a city like Constantinople, the most marvellous crop of *canards* of every kind and every nature.

I have made several efforts to determine what the real strength of the Russian army is. And I believe your Lordship may accept the following figures as being approximately correct :—

There are south of the Pruth six army corps, and certain independent reserve divisions, which may, perhaps, equal a seventh corps.

These corps do not at present number more than 21,000 to 22,000 men each.

The whole force south of the Pruth would thus be about 150,000 men, stationed generally as follows :—

	Men.
Roumania	25,000
Bulgaria	30,000
Roumelia	25,000
Turkey Proper	70,000
Total	150,000

I believe these figures to be an outside estimate, and I give it as such, including all ranks, all classes, combatants and non-combatants.

Your Lordship will observe that the 50,000 spoken of in the Treaty of Berlin as remaining in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia have not been exceeded.

The actual force of 70,000 men, who, in my opinion, are quartered in Turkey proper, may, I think, be placed as follows :—

	Men.
At Adrianople	15,000
Janboli	20,000
Usunkopru	5,000
Demotica	5,000
Hamboli	5,000
Lule Bergas	5,000
Bourgas and Kirk-Kilisse	10,000
Elsewhere and detachments	5,000
Total	70,000

As regards the force of this army, I cannot but think its power is as exaggerated as its number. Never have I seen such open bare-faced profligacy as I have seen with the Russian officers. The number of prostitutes of all nations that are now at Varna, Schumla, and Rustchuk is simply extraordinary. It is no exaggeration to say that every second officer you meet in the street is accompanied by a woman of bad character.

It is quite needless to repeat here the tales of profligacy that are told everywhere of all kinds: one fact that I myself witnessed will, perhaps, be sufficient:

Our Russian colleague, Colonel Bogolubow, who started from Constantinople three days before us, engaged a saloon carriage for the Commission at Varna. When we arrived at the station, the station-master reported that a Russian officer and a prostitute had taken possession of the carriage and refused to leave it. One of General Todleben's Aides-de-camp, who had come with us from Constantinople, remonstrated with this officer, who refused to quit the carriage; the Aide-de-camp telegraphed a complaint to General Todleben. But the curious point is, that although there was a General Officer in command of the Kashijan and Schumla station, and another General in command here, no notice whatever has been taken of the affair. Such matters may appear very trivial; I submit they are not, as they show the tone and spirit of the whole army.

As regards the military force of Russia now in Turkey, I believe it to be enormously exaggerated both as to its number and its power as an army.

As regards the political side of the question, there can be no doubt but that subordinate agents, such, for instance, as the General Officer commanding in Roumania, are making large offers to the Roumanian Government to give them a frontier extending from Baltchik, on the Black Sea, to near Turtukai, on the Danube, as the price of a Convention forming an offensive and defensive alliance with Russia, and allowing the Russians to have a military road through the Dobrudscha. While this is being done on one side, Slav Committees are hard at work getting up petitions from all the Bulgarian villages which are situated north of the Silistria-Mangalian line, with the object of urging the Powers through the Boundary Commission not to hand them over to Roumania: this is notably the case at Khusgun.

The revolt in Macedonia is another link in the same great web of intrigue that is being spread over the country by unscrupulous agents with the view of obtaining alterations (that may suit Russia) in the clauses of the Berlin Treaty.

On this subject I had a very remarkable conversation with Colonel von Scherff, my German colleague. Colonel von Scherff is a man of very considerable reputation, and having staid in the house of the German Ambassador for more than six weeks must to a certain extent be imbued with his views. Colonel von Scherff is also the head of the Eastern Section of the General Staff at Berlin, which embraces Asia, Russia, Austria, and Turkey. He informed me that nothing astonished him so much as the way in which the British Government allowed Russian intrigues to go on. "Russia," he said, "will take everything. She has no faith, no truth in her. She

follows but one principle, self-interest. She will make one excuse after another not to evacuate Turkey until she sees the result of the Afghan war. But," he said, "be sure of this: when she makes war against you she will have so arranged matters that you will have no ally. We will not go with you. France cannot. Italy counts for nothing as yet. And Austria, you lean on Austria; she will never make war against Russia, and she will always be ready to accept the bribe of Salonica even to make war against you. Do not imagine that the Turk will be in your favour. The Russians are far more likely to have their aid, such as it is, than you are. They understand the Russians; they cannot understand you. To check Russia you must take her firmly, and she will yield, and, above all, take her before she concludes her loan in Paris." These words of Colonel von Scherff are very remarkable; they made a strong impression on me, and I venture to repeat them for your Lordship's information.

A question has been raised, are there any indications of the Russians preparing either to leave or remain in the country? As usual in all Russian matters, the evidence points both ways.

Large masses of military stores are being sold by the Russians: 40,000 sheepskin coats, of which 38,000 were quite new, were sold at Bourgas a short time ago for 6 kopecks each. Almost any quantity of Krupp shells may be purchased for 1½*d.* each, and millions of cartridges are for sale at one-tenth their original cost. These are facts: I obtained them from persons who had bought the articles themselves. Horses are being sold, and the cost of the various establishments are being reduced. *Per contra*, no attempt is being made to destroy the fortifications of Rustchuk, Varna, and Schumla. Russian officers are bringing their wives and families to the country, and making arrangements, such as taking houses, &c., for lengthened periods. The Government may appeal to the sale of military stores as being evidence of their good faith, yet if anything happens they are still ready in the country.

I have seen here about 2,000 of the Bulgarian militia. They are fine-looking men, well clothed, and with good boots, and well armed. They have Russian officers and non-commissioned officers, and will some day prove a formidable force.

At present both the infantry and artillery I have seen are very raw, and quite unfit to place in the field.

To recapitulate, the conclusions that have been left on my mind are—

1. That the Russian army does not exceed, if it amounts to, 150,000. That its tone and moral power is most deficient, and that it is by no means a formidable army to contend with.

2. That intrigues of every kind are being spread over the country with the view of exciting the population to require alterations in the Treaty of Berlin. That these intrigues take every form; sometimes they are in favour of the national aspirations of the Bulgarians; sometimes the reverse. That every effort is being used to find a motive or cause for remaining in Bulgaria and Roumelia until the result of the Afghan war is known.

3. That these intrigues are not directly countenanced by the Russian Government, but that Government is ready at any moment to condone and take advantage of them, and has selected its officials from amongst the very class of men who have spent all their lives in such intrigues.

4. That a great effort is being made by working through irregular, not regular diplomatic Agents, to induce Roumania to make an offensive and defensive alliance with Russia.

5. That similar efforts are being made to induce Turkey to form an alliance with Russia, securing to her Asia Minor without reforms, and placing the Sultan more or less under the suzerainty of the Czar.

6. That the whole of the intrigues now going on would probably cease were Russia convinced that the action of England was to be determined.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

P.S.—I transmit this letter under flying seal to Mr. White, C.B.

R. H.

No. 132.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 147. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Trebizond, October 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 137 of the 11th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy in abstract of a letter addressed to me on the 22nd instant by M. Magack, and containing details on the insurrection of the Kurds in the district of Dersim.

The only information which I have received from other sources on the subject is also from Erzeroum, and runs thus:—

"We have no news about the Kurds troubles in the Karpoot region; they are not, however, believed to grow serious."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 132.

M. Magack to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Monsieur, *Erzéroum, le 22 Octobre,* 1878.

LA révolution au Dersim n'est pas une nouvelle très-récente; elle date de trois à quatre mois. Je tiens de bonne source que les Kurdes du Dersim, après les revers de l'armée de Mouktar, se sont mis en communication avec l'armée Russe croyant que ces derniers pousseraient jusqu'à Erzinghian, et dans cet espoir ils se sont révoltés.

Le Mushir Ismaïl, qui exerce une très-grande influence sur les habitants du Dersim et du Doujeck, a immédiatement envoyé des Aides-de-camp accompagnés d'une députation d'Erzinghian pour leur conseiller la paix, en leur donnant l'assurance qu'il ne les toucherait pas s'ils obéissaient à ses ordres.

Sans aucune perte de temps tous les notables se sont empressés de se rendre à l'invitation du Mushir Ismaïl, à l'exception d'un des Chefs influents de l'insurrection, et dont le nom n'échappe maintenant.

Le Mushir reçut d'une manière très-affable les Chefs de l'insurrection et leur donna des cadeaux, et leur assura toute la protection nécessaire pour commencer les réformes.

Une somme de près de 600 livres Turques à été versée par les Kurdes du Dersim dans la Caisse Civile du Gouvernement, à titre d'à-compte sur les arriérés dûs au Gouvernement pour des taxes annuaires.

Comme un des Chefs de l'insurrection ne s'était pas rendu à l'invitation du Mushir Ismail, il a été attaqué par des troupes expédiés contre lui et tué à la suite de sa résistance.

Ainsi fut terminée la révolte, et au moment ou tout allait à merveille, arrive de Constantinople un certain Ali Shefick Bey, fonctionnaire de la Porte, chargé d'exécuter les réformes dans le Vilayet d'Erzéroum. Dès ce moment Ismaïl Pacha cesse toute action et remet les rênes du Dersim au nouveau fonctionnaire.

Ali Shefick demande des forces pour entrer dans les défilés du Dersim et y commencer les réformes; malgré les conseils du Mushir, Ali Shefick, appuyé par dix-huit bataillons, approche du Dersim. La population, effrayée de ce changement subit et inexplicable, se soulève. Les troupes s'arrêtent aux environs des défilés et cernent une partie des embouchures des vallées qui correspondent aux plaines.

Les Kurdes se mettent sur la défensive, et se contentent de mettre chaque soir Palanne au camp Turc en venant tirer tout près quelques coups de fusil, pour effrayer les troupes et les obliger à veiller la nuit.

Ali Chefick Bey, ayant complétement manqué son but, demanda les conseils du Mushir Ismaïl; celui-ci se trouvait alors à Pirun Kassan et ne pouvait plus rien faire.

Quelques jours après Ismaïl Pacha se rend à Erzinghian et reçoit l'ordre de la Porte de quitter Erzinghian et le service militaire pour venir prendre loi le service civil du Vilayet d'Erzéroum.

Il est à ma connaissance qu'il y a eu un jour une attaque ou les troupes Turques ont perdu plusieurs hommes, tués et blessés; il est impossible d'en préciser le nombre,

attendu que pour empêcher le scandale le plus grand secret est tenu sur cette matière, mais la Porte a dû en être informée, j'en suis sûr.

(Signé) A. MAGACK.

No. 133.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 148. Political.) [B.B.]

Trebizond, October 25, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE received from an occasional correspondent the news, which I have the honour to communicate to your Lordship, contained in the following extracts from his letters to me, under date of the 20th and 22nd instant:—

"As I told you in my telegram of yesterday perfect tranquillity has been enjoyed in these parts since the return of the Turks. There is, in fact, no news of any kind whatever. People here are much annoyed by the Russians prohibiting the exportation of wood from the Soghanli Dagh. There are no end of rumours about the expected arrival of Lord Dufferin. . . . . As I said already the most perfect tranquillity has not ceased to reign in town and country since Moussa Pasha's arrival. There are many rumours started here now and then about supposed excesses at Bayazid and at Alashkerd, but they are unfounded, as you may gather from the fact that I am going to Kars on Thursday, and not to Bayazid for the moment. These rumours are as unfounded as those current at Trebizond, you may remember, a month ago, about a supposed return of the Russians to Erzeroum. The idea that the Russians are to come back here, soon or late, is still prevalent among the Gregorian Armenians in the town. It is said to-day that the Redifs and Mustafiz of the province are about to be called out, in order to fill up the ranks of the battalions of the 4th Army Corps. Dervish Pasha is still at Erzinghian. Liva Ahmed Moukhtar, Commander of the Baibourt troops, is an honest man and a brave soldier. The Russian Consul here has still a telegraphic office, with a numerous staff, at his disposal."

The Tsapar from Persia reports that the road of Bayazid is infested with brigands near the frontier.

The last news from Kars is that the Russians have sent two divisions towards Batoum.

It is said that the Persians, following the example of the other Powers, are mobilizing their army. The Governors of the Azerbaydjan region have received orders to forward immediately 12,000 men to Tehran.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 134.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 149. Political.)

Trebizond, October 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Trinofeen, the Russian Consul at Trebizond, returned here and resumed his post on the 22nd instant, but that the Russian flag was hoisted only to-day.

He had asked the Pasha to fire a salute of twenty-one guns, the responsibility of which act, and even that of asking instructions from the Porte, his Excellency refused to endorse.

The Russian subjects were invited to assist to a Te Deum, and to the blessing by the Greek Bishop of the Russian flag, which was immediately after hoisted amidst the vociferous hurrahs of the assistants.

The Turkish flag, as well as that of all the other Powers, having been displayed on this occasion, I have deemed it expedient to make no exception.

A large crowd had assembled to witness the landing on his arrival of the Russian Consul, whose return is, I believe, seen with satisfaction by the Greeks and the Armenians in this town.

Mr. Obermüller, the Russian Consul at Erzeroum, which post is to be raised to the rank of Consulate-General, arrived here with M. Trinofeen, and departed to-day

for Erzeroum after having assisted, together with Mr. Trinofeen, in uniform, to the unfurling of the flag of their nation.

I understood that a Russian Consulate is to be established at Diarbekir, and Vice-Consulates at Van, Moosh, and Samsoon.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 135.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1328.)

Therapia, October 26, 1878.

My Lord,

I INCLOSE the translation of a remarkable article which has appeared in the Turkish newspaper the "Terdjumani Shark," advocating the concession of autonomous institutions to the provinces of European Turkey not included in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and a confederation of those provinces as the "United States of the East," for mutual defence, and for the preservation of their national existence, their religion, and their independence. I may mention that the Sultan is in the habit of reading the Turkish newspapers, and, according to public rumour, occasionally causes his own opinions upon political matters to be expressed in them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 135.

Extract from the "Terdjoumani Shark."

(Traduction.)

LA TURQUIE EUROPÉENNE.—Disons qu'il n'y a pas un Gouvernement plus adapté à la sauvegarde de la liberté des populations en Orient que le Gouvernement Ottoman. En effet, l'encre du Traité de Berlin, qui a été, soi-disant, conclu, en vue de sauvegarder la liberté de ces populations, n'a pas encore séché, et déjà la moitié de la Roumélie court le risque de devenir une ferme de la Russie, et l'autre moitié celle de l'Autriche. En pareil état de choses qui pourrait garantir l'indépendance des petits Etats tels que la Valachie, la Serbie, le Monténégro, et la Grèce? Malgré l'égalité civile et religieuse reconnue, n'est-il pas facile, de ce que nous voyons aujourd'hui, de se faire une idée de ce que sera la condition future des Musulmans! Comment donc pourrait-on garantir que les races non-Slaves, tels que les Roumains, les Grecs, les Albanais, et les Turcs, ne seront pas absorbées par les Slaves?

Il est incontestable qu'en Orient (cette pomme de discorde des Grandes Puissances), l'existence de petits Etats est impossible; et bien que les Grandes Puissances aient à cœur l'indépendance et la liberté des peuples de l'Orient, ceux-ci ignorent complétement qu'ils ont besoin d'un protecteur qui, tout en assurant leur liberté et leur bonne administration, les défendrait en même temps de l'agression des Grandes Puissances. Ils ignorent aussi qu'ils ont besoin de vivre en bonne intelligence entre eux. Il est probable qu'afin de se soustraire à l'esclavage et afin de ne pas perdre leur nationalité, ces peuples sacrifieraient pour un tel protecteur une partie de leur indépendance et de leur liberté, et il est même à présumer qu'ils donneraient leur vie pour un tel protecteur, si celui-ci, de sa propre initiative, leur octroyait l'indépendance.

On ne trouverait un tel protecteur que dans le Gouvernement Ottoman. Si la Porte eût voulu, elle aurait assuré la bonne administration, la liberté, et l'égalité de ces peuples; elle serait devenue leur véritable protectrice; les peuples de l'Orient auraient été rangés parmi les plus heureux de la terre; l'Empire Ottoman aurait été l'un des plus forts Etats en Europe et en Asie, et par conséquent les insinuations de l'étranger n'auraient pas eu d'effet en Orient. Malheureusement, lorsque nous avions le temps de faire tout cela, ceux qui gouvernaient alors notre pays n'ont pas pensé ou bien n'ont pas voulu faire ce qui était nécessaire.

Si le Gouvernement Ottoman, avant que cette question ne surgisse et même lorsqu'elle a surgi, divisait la Roumélie en plusieurs circonscriptions, selon la race de ses habitants, accordait à chacune une administration privilégiée, leur octroyait le "self-government," assurait leur liberté, formait leur armée respective de manière que

celle-ci, étant composée de tous les habitants, restât dans le pays comme garde nationale pendant la paix, et que pendant la guerre elle pût être dirigé partout où il serait nécessaire, c'est-à-dire si la Porte concédait de sa propre initiative, à ces provinces privilégiées, à peu d'exceptions près, les priviléges qui furent accordés aux Crétois, elles n'auraient pas eu des tendances vers l'étranger, elles n'auraient pas prêté l'oreille aux machinations, et elles auraient considéré la Porte comme leur véritable bienfaitrice. Indépendamment de tout cela, il est certain que même les Principautés, alors semi-indépendantes, de Serbie et de Monténégro, auraient désiré, afin de se mettre à l'abri des intrigues et des violences des Etats étrangers, entrer dans le rang des provinces privilégiées, c'est-à-dire, faire partie intégrante du corps des "Etats-Unis de l'Orient," abrité sous l'égide Impériale du Padishah des Ottomans et du Calife des Musulmans. Il est probable que le Gouvernement se serait privé par ce moyen d'une partie de ses revenus, mais les revenus dont il serait privé seraient restés dans le pays et dépensés pour des travaux d'utilité publique, pour l'instruction, et pour le progrès du pays en général. En dehors de cela, le Gouvernement recevant une somme fixe de chaque province privilégiée, n'aurait eu aucune dépense pour la perception des taxes, aurait évité les difficultés et les révoltes internes, et enfin aurait été sauvé du danger de perdre plusieurs parties de la Roumélie, de les placer sous l'influence de la Russie, et d'être dans l'appréhension de perdre, Dieu garde, toute la Roumélie.

Ainsi le Gouvernement aurait eu dans chaque province, à la place du caprice et de l'arbitraire d'un Vali, une loi conforme à la condition, aux besoins, et aux désirs des habitants. A la place d'ordres Viziriels, dont la valeur cesse aussitôt après le changement du Vizir qui les a émis, il y aurait eu un Conseil choisi par le peuple. Une autre assemblée dans la capitale aurait eu soin des besoins de tout l'Empire. Que l'on ne s'immagine pas que nous parlons maintenant des choses passées et irréalisables. Non, nous invoquons le passé comme exemple pour le présent et pour l'avenir. A ceux qui admettent notre manière de voir nous sommes à même de prouver qu'il n'est pas encore trop tard pour exécuter cette mesure. Bien que le temps de l'application de la mesure en Bosnie, en Bulgarie, et en la Roumélie Orientale soit déjà passé, il n'en est pas de même des autres parties de la Roumélie qui restent sous notre domination. On y peut toujours faire l'application de la manière suivante :—

Que l'on divise la Roumélie en trois provinces autonomes sous la souveraineté de la Porte. Ces trois provinces seraient composées : la première de l'Albanie, la seconde de la Macédoine et de la Thessalie, et la troisième de la Thrace. Ainsi délimitées ces provinces devraient jouir, à peu d'exceptions près, des mêmes priviléges que Candie. Elles seraient ainsi purement et simplement sous la souveraineté de la Porte n'ayant aucune obligation envers un Gouvernement étranger, et posséderaient la bonne administration, l'égalité, la tranquillité, et le bien-être requis. Si cela se fait, la Roumélie Orientale ne restera pas sous l'influence de la Russie mais elle sera rangée parmi ces provinces et graduellement les Bulgares, arrivant à comprendre le danger qui provient de leur attachement à la Russie, viendront se joindre à ce corps ; et il est probable qu'un jour même les Principautés voisines et d'autres petits Etats se mettant de nouveau sous la bannière du Gouvernement Ottoman, contribuent à former ce que nous disions ci-dessus les "Etats-Unis de l'Orient." Si l'on considère que la Serbie et le Monténégro courent un danger du côté de l'Autriche, et la Roumanie du côté de la Russie, que la Grèce n'étant protégée de personne reste orpheline et ne saurait avoir grande confiance en ses propres forces, la probabilité du rattachement et de la jonction de ces Etats n'est pas impossible ; en tout cas, nous serons ainsi à même de sauver le reste de la Roumélie si nous ne pouvons en dériver d'autres avantages.

Le côté oriental de Thrace, de Macédoine, et de Cossova courent un grand danger de l'incursion des Bulgares ; l'Epire et Thessalie de celle des Hellènes ; et enfin l'Albanie, par la descente des Autrichiens à Novi-Bazar, court le danger d'être étouffée entre les Hellènes et les Autrichiens. Il n'existe aucun autre moyen pour prévenir tous ces dangers.

Nous basant, donc, sur le désir bien connu de Sa Majesté Impériale d'assurer la liberté et la tranquillité de tous ses sujets, nous avons la ferme conviction que des mesures en conséquence seront prises, que l'avenir de la Roumélie, faisant toujours partie du territoire Ottoman, sera ainsi assuré, et le bien-être, la liberté des peuples de l'Orient deviendrait une réalité.

Par ce moyen la grandeur Ottomane arrivera à un point beaucoup plus élevé qu'elle n'a pas précédemment atteint.

No. 136.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1329. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, October 26, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY informed me yesterday evening that he had just received two telegrams from Count Andrassy, the substance of which he would communicate to Safvet Pasha on the following morning. He stated to me that one of them instructed him to inform the Grand Vizier that Austria would be prepared to assist the Porte in resisting any encroachments ("empiétements") by Servia or Montenegro on Turkish territory, in violation of the Treaty of Berlin, and, further, that she would not advance upon Novi-Bazar unless asked to do so by Turkey, although she could not pledge herself by any formal engagement to this effect, as it would be contrary to the Treaty of Berlin for her to do so. If the territory ("enclave") between Servia and Montenegro were attacked or invaded by either Principality, and Turkey were able to defend herself, so much the better, but if she required the help of Austria it would be given her.

The second telegram related to the Mission of Count Schouvaloff to Vienna, and the proposal which he had made to the Austrian Cabinet to unite with Russia to procure the election of Pietro Bosnovitch, the uncle of the Prince of Montenegro and the President of the Montenegrin Senate, as Prince of Bulgaria. The proposal, which seems to have caused considerable alarm to the Austro-Hungarian Government, had been summarily rejected. Count Zichy observed to me that the election of the uncle would be virtually that of the nephew, and that the suggestion of Russia disclosed her evident intention of bringing about the union of Bulgaria, and other Slav provinces, with Montenegro, and of putting into execution her designs of forming a large Slav state to the south of the Danube, which would be a most serious danger to Austria. Pietro Bosovitch was known to be of a warlike and restless disposition, and had been the principal promoter of the aggressive policy of the Prince of Montenegro. He had very ambitious Panslavic views, and was just the man to carry out the plans of Russia.

Count Zichy went on to say that he considered the communication that he was about to make to Safvet Pasha as a conciliatory overture on the part of the Austrian Cabinet, of which he trusted the Porte would gladly avail itself to restore the close and friendly relations between Turkey and Austro-Hungary, which had been unfavourably affected by the conduct of the Turkish Government in the Bosnian question. He begged me to speak on the subject to the Grand Vizier, and to urge upon His Highness not to allow the opportunity of coming to a thorough understanding with Austria to pass. I promised my colleague that I would do so.

I accordingly instructed Sir A. Sandison to see Safvet Pasha early this morning, and to tell his Highness that, in my opinion, it was most desirable that the Porte should take advantage of the overture now made by Austria in a conciliatory spirit, and with a view to bring about an understanding with Turkey. I urged upon his Highness that, in view of the proceedings of Russia, and the designs attributed to her, it was of the utmost importance to the interests of both countries that the closest and most friendly relations should be renewed between them, and that in order to effect so desirable an object, the Bosnian question should be brought to a settlement without delay. I pointed out to his Highness that Her Majesty's Government, who had done their best to promote a cordial understanding between the two countries, were most anxious that Austria should be ready and disposed to act cordially with England and the Porte in obtaining the evacuation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia by Russia when the time came for the withdrawal of her troops from those provinces, in accordance with the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin. Unless the three Powers were prepared to act in complete accord in this matter serious complications and dangers might ensue.

Safvet Pasha had already seen Count Zichy, and had received the Austrian communication, when Sir A. Sandison waited upon him. His Highness replied to my representations that there was a general disposition on the part of the Porte to maintain hereafter the most cordial and friendly relations with Austria, and that he himself in particular was strongly in favour of this policy. He added that, in view of what seemed still to be in store for Turkey, he fully understood the importance of such an understanding with Austria as I had advised, and that he would endeavour to bring it about.

As it appeared to me of very great importance that the opportunity now offered to the Porte of renewing friendly relations with Austria should not be lost, I sent to Hairreddin Pasha to ask him to call upon me, in order that I might convey a message through him on the subject to the Sultan. His Highness was good enough to come to me this afternoon. I placed before him very fully the dangers which would threaten Turkey should a cordial understanding not exist between her and Austria when the time came for the evacuation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia by Russia, and begged him to endeavour to persuade His Majesty of the urgent necessity, for his own interests and those of his Empire, of availing himself of the overture now made by the Austro-Hungarian Government to effect some arrangement with it with regard to Bosnia, and thus to remove the differences which had unfortunately arisen with it on this question. His Excellency promised me that he would do all in his power to prevail upon the Sultan to act upon my advice, and went at once to Yildiz to communicate it to His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 137.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 7.*)

(No. 1330.) [B.B.] *Therapia, October 26, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of a letter addressed to me by the Delegates of the Cretan National Assembly, thanking me for the assistance I have been able to afford them in bringing about the settlement of their differences with the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 137.

The Delegates of the Cretan Assembly to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Translation.) *Hâlepa, le 7/19 Octobre, 1878.*

M. le Consul,

C'EST en cédant à un sentiment de reconnaissance que nous vous prions, M. le Consul, aujourd'hui que notre tâche est remplie, de vouloir bien présenter à son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté la Reine à Constantinople la vive expression de nos remerciments pour l'appui efficace qu'il a bien voulu accorder à notre cause.

Dans un temps où la Sublime Porte se trouvait occupée d'autres questions plus pressantes, et tandis que plusieurs obstacles s'interposaient ici à l'entente désirée, la haute influence de son Excellence a vivement attiré sur notre affaire l'attention du Gouvernement Impérial, et par votre intermédiaire, M. le Consul, a écarté les difficultés qui surgissaient ici.

Nous exprimons pour cela notre reconnaissance, et nous vous prions, M. le Consul, d'agréer, &c.

(Signé) (Les Délégués de l'Assemblée Générale.)

No. 138.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 7.*)

(No. 1331.) *Therapia, October 27, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a Report, published by the Constantinople newspapers, of the substance of a speech alleged to have been addressed by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, on his departure from Philippopolis for Sofia, to the civil and military authorities and notables of the former place.

The Prince appears to have thanked them for the assistance they have given him in forming "a good territorial army," and in introducing into Eastern Roumelia an administrative system similar to that which he is about to apply to Bulgaria. This administrative uniformity, his Excellency is stated to have declared, was a guarantee for the future of Roumelia, and answered to the wishes and wants of the populations. He announced the approaching arrival of the European Commission, a portion of whose task, he said, had already been accomplished by the provisional Government.

The presence of this Commission, his Excellency added, would in no way change the existing state of things, the province of Eastern Roumelia, except as regards the finances, remaining under the present administration.

Prince Dondoukoff concluded his discourse by informing his audience that he was aware that the uncertainty of their future inspired them with great fears, but that, as he had frequently told them, they should not despair of the effects of time and circumstances. The force of things, which frequently overpowers human calculation, might effect many changes in their condition. He exhorted them once more to have confidence, and warned them that any premature manifestation might compromise the success of their holy cause, which depended not only upon time and events, but upon their wisdom. "Respect order and legality," he ended by saying, "and the future will crown your aspirations, and will finish our common work in accordance with the lofty and gracious views of the liberating Czar."

Saïvet Pasha has called my attention to these remarkable declarations of the Russian Imperial Commissioner. Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff is accused by high Russian authorities of speaking lightly and without authority—in fact, they do not hesitate to call him a "blagueur." Unfortunately, he not only talks, but puts his words into execution. Your Lordship will judge how far his actions and designs are in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin and the intentions of the Signatory Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 138.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" of October 26, 1878.

AVANT son départ pour Sophia, le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff a réuni dans le conak du Gouvernement les autorités civiles et militaires, ainsi qu'un grand nombre de notables Bulgares, et a prononcé un discours dont voici l'analyse :

Le Prince a remercié les autorités du concours qu'elles lui ont prêté, et qui lui a permis de créer en peu de temps une bonne armée territoriale et d'introduire dans la Roumélie Orientale un système administratif semblable à celui qui doit régir la Principauté du nord. Il a dit que cette uniformité administrative était une garantie pour l'avenir de la Roumélie, et qu'elle répondait aux désirs et aux besoins des populations. Il a annoncé la prochaine arrivée de la Commission Européenne, dont une partie de la tâche a été accomplie par le Gouvernement Provisoire.

Le Prince a ajouté que la présence de la Commission Européenne ne changerait rien à l'ordre de choses existant, et que la province, sauf en ce qui concerne les finances, restait placée sous l'administration actuelle.

La dernière partie du discours prononcé en cette circonstance par le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff a un caractère exclusivement politique : à ce titre, et à raison de son importance, j'en citerai textuellement la conclusion :—

"Je sais que l'incertitude de votre avenir vous inspire de vives craintes. Mais, ainsi que je vous l'ai dit à plus d'une reprise, vous ne devez pas désespérer du temps et des circonstances. La force des choses, qui a souvent raison des calculs humains, peut apporter bien des changements à votre condition.

"Encore une fois ayez confiance. Toute manifestation intempestive peut compromettre le succès de votre sainte cause, qui ne dépend pas seulement du temps et des événements, mais aussi de votre sagesse. Respectez l'ordre et la légalité, et l'avenir couronnera vos aspirations, achèvera notre œuvre commune au gré des vues élevées et généreuses du Czar libérateur."

No. 139.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1334.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 27, 1878.

My Lord,

M. DIMITRI GRÉCOFF, M. Natchovits, and another Bulgarian gentleman, who brought me the petitions which I forwarded to your Lordship with my despatch No. 1301 of the 22nd instant, but whom I was unable to see on that occasion, having written to ask me to give them an interview, I appointed to-day to receive them.

On my asking them the object of their visit, M. Grécoff replied that they were the delegates of the Bulgarians charged to protest on the part of their countrymen against the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, which had separated Eastern Roumelia from Bulgaria contrary to their wishes and in violation of their national rights. I interrupted M. Grécoff, and informed him that I declined to listen to any representations against the Treaty, and that I must request him to abstain from saying anything more upon the subject. Their case had been fully considered by the European Powers, and it was not for me to question the decisions of the Congress. I had sent their petitions or protests to your Lordship, and, in doing so, I had perhaps even exceeded my duty.

I then warned him and his companions that the cruel treatment to which the Mussulman population had been subjected by the Bulgarians threatened to destroy the sympathy that had been felt for the Bulgarian cause in Europe, and especially in England, and to produce an entire revulsion of feeling with regard to it. Her Majesty's Government, I said, had not contributed to secure liberty and political rights to the Bulgarians in order that they might treat the Mahommedan population with the same cruelty and injustice that they alleged they had suffered under Turkish rule. It was not the intention of England that the oppressed should thus merely change parts with the oppressors. She desired justice and equal rights for all, and that Mussulmans should be well governed and protected in their lives and property as well as Christians. I advised M. Grécoff and his friends to lose no time in using their influence in putting a stop to the shocking cruelties which were being committed by their countrymen upon the Mahommedan population, instead of employing it to get up an agitation against the Treaty of Berlin, and to endeavour to effect the union of Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, which I had every reason to believe some at least of the European Powers were determined to resist.

The delegates maintained that the statements which had been published, and the official reports which had been addressed to myself and my colleagues as to the ill-treatment of the Mussulmans by the Bulgarians, were entirely unfounded, and that, with the exception of one or two isolated cases of ordinary crimes, no outrages had been committed by their countrymen upon the Mahommedan population.

I told these gentlemen that I regretted that I could not accept their assurances on this subject, but that I should be truly glad if they could prove what they had said to me to the satisfaction of Europe.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—The so-called Bulgarian delegates, after seeing me, called upon my French colleague, who refused to receive them.

A. H. L.

No. 140.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1335.) [B.B.]

Therapia, October 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the note addressed by the Porte to the Russian Ambassador with reference to the insurrectionary movement now taking place in Macedonia, which, it alleges, is to be attributed to Bulgarian bands armed and disciplined in territory occupied by the Russian forces. I have already communicated the substance of the note to your Lordship in my telegram No. 956 of the 28th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 140.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Labanoff.

Sublime Porte, le 28 Octobre, 1878.

JE crois devoir signaler immédiatement à votre Excellence les entreprises insurrectionnelles qui viennent de se produire de la part de bandes Bulgares dans plusieurs districts de la Macédoine, et qui empruntent une très-grande gravité aux circonstances dans lesquelles ces aggressions ont eu lieu.

Le bourg de Yenitcka et six villages Musulmans avoisinants ont été détruits par une bande de 2,000 Bulgares venues des frontières de la Bulgarie. Ils menacent du même sort les districts de Metnik, de Petrick, et de Timour, ainsi que la ville de Granitcha.

Les informations prises aux sources les plus sûres nous autorisent à affirmer que cette bande, aussi bien que celle qui s'apprête à envahir le pays, a été formée, armée, et exercée au sud de la Bulgarie, c'est-à-dire dans un pays occupé par les troupes Russes, et administré par les autorités Russes.

La facilité avec laquelle ces préparatifs insurrectionnels s'opèrent dans le pays, et notamment dans celui entre Sophia, Kustendil, et Djuma, sera certainement considérée par votre Excellence comme une circonstance d'une haute gravité, qui engage la responsabilité des autorités Russes, qui ont la garde du pays, et qui paraissent en cette occasion avoir agi contrairement aux intentions du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et aux instructions qu'elles ont dû recevoir.

La Sublime Porte est d'ailleurs convaincue que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie ne tolérera pas que le territoire de la Bulgarie ou toute autre localité, occupée par les troupes Russes, soit le foyer d'intrigues subnissives et le centre de préparatifs insurrectionnels dirigés contre l'autorité légitime de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Dans cette circonstance je dois me borner à signaler les faits à votre Excellence avec la certitude qu'ils seront immédiatement réprimés, et que des mesures énergiques seront prises par les autorités Russes pour étouffer le mal à la source même et prévenir ainsi les conséquences funestes du plan révolutionnaire qui vient d'être révélé par un commencement d'exécution.

No. 141.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1337.)

Therapia, October 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Smyrna reporting the assassination of the Chief of the Secret Police at that place. I have communicated a copy of Mr. Reade's despatch to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 141.

Consul T. Reade to Sir A. H. Layard.

Smyrna, October 26, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my past correspondence relative to the condition of insecurity to which the lives of the inhabitants of this city and district are subject, in consequence of the insufficiency of our police administration, I have the honour to report that on Wednesday last, the 23rd instant, Nouri Agha, the Chief of the Secret Police, was shot dead whilst engaged in conversation with some gentlemen at one of the principal

cafés of the place. The assassination took place at half-past 6 P.M., when the café was crowded with people. Such, however, was the panic produced by the report of the pistol-shot, that every one present (and there could not have been less than one hundred) ran away, with the exception of an Englishman, who gave what assistance he could to the dying man.

A patrolling detachment of police happening to be passing by came at once upon the scene, but I regret to have to record the fact that the assassins and their confederates are not only still at large—they have even escaped detection. That he or they must be well known to many cannot be doubted, and it is indeed lamentable that of the many there is not one who will dare to denounce the perpetrator of this atrocious and cowardly murder.

Crimes of this nature are of very frequent, I may say daily, occurrence at Smyrna. Rarely does it come to pass that the criminal is arrested. Sometimes, however, the arrest is effected; but what happens? The criminal, if not acquitted at once, in consequence generally of an insufficiency of evidence, is detained in prison for a few months, and then let loose upon the public, to resume the work of his homicidal disposition; and, if any one should have dared to declare against him, avenge himself on that person. Hence it is that people here will rarely venture to give evidence against criminals, and hence, too, the growing audacity with which outrages of the worst description are perpetrated at Smyrna.

The necessity for reorganization of the police force of this country is too apparent to require any further observations from me.

I would, however, beg respectfully to submit that for this state of things the Turkish Government has in its hands an easy and, I believe, effectual remedy. They have only to publicly execute criminals convicted of murder under circumstances that do not admit of extenuation. Villains of this type come frequently into their power. On one occasion, some months ago, Hamdi Pasha told me he had applied to Constantinople for authority to execute some murderers whose guilt was too patent for even the Temyz Hohouk to acquit them, but I have not since heard any more about them.

Until an example is made of some of these scoundrels, by hanging them or executing them in some other way, the inhabitants of Smyrna will have to walk the streets in constant fear of being subjected to personal outrage.

To give an idea of the state of complete demoralization into which the police of this place have fallen, I may mention that, on the day following the murder of Nourri Agha, three or four Greeks entered one of the police guard-rooms in the middle of the day, and disarming the only zaptieh on duty, walked away with his gun and yataghan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. F. READE.

No. 142.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1338. Confidential.)
Therapia, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

AS I felt somewhat doubtful whether Musurus Bey had fully and correctly reported to Safvet Pasha your Lordship's observations to him when he placed in your Lordship's hands the two telegraphic despatches from the Porte relating to the Austrian occupation of Bosnia, I made a memorandum of the substance of your Lordship's despatch No. 1215 of the 7th instant, and gave it to his Highness yesterday.

He thanked me for it, adding that it was very important that he should know what your Lordship had really said to the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, who had only reported that you had declined to interfere in the matters to which the Circular referred.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 143.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1339.)
Therapia, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 1331 of 27th instant, I gave your Lordship the substance of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff's speech addressed to the Bulgarian authorities and notables on his departure from Philippopolis, as published by the Constantinople newspapers. The complete, and, no doubt, official text has now appeared, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of it.

Your Lordship will perceive that the declarations made by the Prince as to future union of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia went even further than appeared in the abridged report of his speech.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 143.

Extract from the "Courrier d'Orient" of October 26, 1878.

VOICI l'important discours de congé prononcé par le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff devant les autorités de Philippopoli, à l'occasion du transfer du Gouvernement Bulgare à Sophia. Ce discours doit être lu avec attention.

"Messieurs,

"Me rendant à Sophia pour l'organisation de la future Principauté Bulgare, je ne veux point quitter Philippopoli sans vous exprimer une profonde reconnaissance du concours sympathique que vous m'avez apporté dans l'accomplissement de l'œuvre généreuse entreprise par mon auguste Souverain à l'égard de votre cher pays.

"Grâce à ce concours, j'ai pu en peu de temps—sans parler de la création d'une excellente armée territoriale—introduire en Roumélie, dans toutes les branches de l'Administration, un ordre identique à celui qui doit régir la Bulgarie du nord. Cette uniformité administrative je la considère comme un lien de la plus haute importance pour l'avenir de la Roumélie.

"Pour consolider et pour mener à bonne fin les nouvelles institutions, fonctionnant déjà ou étant en voie de fonctionner, j'ai trouvé opportun de confier, sous la réserve de ma direction supérieure, tout l'administration de la Roumélie à un Gouverneur-Général, et j'ai arrêté mon choix sur le Général Stolipine. Vous le connaissez tous, pour l'activité qu'il a déployée avant moi à Philippopoli, pour l'activité qui lui a gagné votre estime et votre affection. Ce choix vous est donc un sûr garant du succès de la mission que je lui confie.

"Sous peu doit arriver ici la Commission Européenne qui s'occupera, conformément aux décisions du Congrès de Berlin, des projets d'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale; sa tâche est, j'aime à le croire, sensiblement allégée par un ordre déjà établi, qui semble si complétement répondre aux vœux et aux besoins du pays.

"D'une manière générale, la sphère d'action de la Commission Internationale doit, sauf en ce qui concerne la partie financière, se restreindre, suivant le Traité de Berlin, à un travail préparatoire de l'organisation future de la Roumélie; la Commission n'ayant pas de caractère administratif, l'Administration reste entre nos mains.

"J'apprécie pleinement les craintes et les inquiétudes que vous inspire votre avenir si incertain; mais je me permets de vous répéter ce que je vous ai dit maintes fois: 'Le temps et les circonstances peuvent apporter bien des changements à votre situation, car le courant historique et la force des choses sont souvent plus puissants que toutes les combinaisons humaines.'

"Ainsi donc, au moment de partir, je vous renouvelle la prière instante d'attendre tout du temps et des événements, de ne pas compromettre le succès de votre sainte cause par des manifestations intempestives et inopportunes. Restez sur le terrain solide de l'ordre et de la légalité, et vous gagnerez à vos vœux et à vos aspirations la juste attention qu'ils méritent.

"Je ne vous dis pas adieu, Messieurs, car je compte revenir de temps à autre

parmi vous pour suivre la marche et le développement de notre œuvre commune que j'espère, avec l'aide du Tout-Puissant, mener à bonne fin, selon les vues élevées du Czar-libérateur."

No. 144.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1340.) [B.B.]
Therapia, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

SOME time ago the well-known Shefket Pasha received a command at Salonica. I pointed out to Safvet Pasha at the time how very undesirable it was that this officer, if employed at all, should be employed in a part of the Empire where troubles, in which the Christian population would be concerned, might at any moment arise. His Highness expressed his complete agreement with me on this subject, and requested the Minister of War to remove him to some other place. But it appears that his Highness' request was not attended to, and Shefket Pasha is now at the head of the troops which are to be sent to quell the Bulgarian insurrectionary movement in Macedonia.

I considered it my duty to lose no time in calling the attention of Safvet Pasha to the danger of entrusting this command to an officer who, by the cruelty and severity with which he is alleged to have suppressed the former Bulgarian rising, was one of the causes of the disasters which have befallen this Empire, and whose presence alone, at the present moment, in the disturbed districts could not fail to produce the most painful impression in Europe, and especially in England. I accordingly communicated to his Highness yesterday a Memorandum, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

Safvet Pasha replied that he was bound to state, in justice to Shefket Pasha, that as soon as he had learnt that he was to take the command of the force to be sent against the Bulgarian insurgents and Bulgarian bands that had invaded Macedonia, he had telegraphed to the Porte to represent that, owing to the charges made against him during the time of the outbreak of 1876, the justice of which, however, he refused to admit, he was not the proper man to be employed on the present occasion, and to request that he might be replaced by some other officer. His Highness said that he had strongly urged upon the Seraskier to act upon Shefket Pasha's suggestion at once, and that he would avail himself of my Memorandum to press this matter still more strongly upon the Minister of War.

His Highness added that he could not understand why the Seraskier persisted in employing a man who had been the cause of so many misfortunes to Turkey, and who had no military capacity or reputation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Memorandum.

HER Majesty's Ambassador regrets to observe that Shefket Pasha, whose conduct in repressing the Bulgarian insurrection in 1876 produced so much indignation in Europe, and was one of the causes of the disastrous events that have unhappily since occurred, is in command of the troops which have been sent to suppress the insurrectionary movement now taking place in Macedonia. Her Majesty's Ambassador believes that he is acting as a true friend to the Porte in warning the Grand Vizier of the serious consequences which may again ensue from the employment of this officer on this duty, should the result of the measures taken against the insurgents and the Christian inhabitants be such as to afford the enemies of Turkey occasion to accuse the Government of His Majesty the Sultan of treating them with unnecessary severity and cruelty. It is deeply to be regretted that, after all that has taken place with regard to Shefket Pasha, and the remonstrance that it has been his duty, acting upon instructions from his Government, to address to the Porte against the future employment of that officer, that he should be selected to command the forces sent against

the Bulgarians who have invaded Macedonia and those who have risen in arms against the Turkish authorities.

No. 145.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1341.) [B.B.]
Therapia, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1340 of this day, I have the honour to state that I am informed by Consul Blunt that Shefket Pasha has been removed from the command of the Turkish force to be employed in Macedonia, and has been replaced by Salih Pasha, who will direct the operations against the Bulgarian insurgents in that province. Shefket Pasha has been appointed to a command at Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 146.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1342.)
Therapia, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I RECENTLY received an anonymous statement from England relating to alleged Russian intrigues in Syria, and especially in Mount Lebanon. I sent it to Consul-General Eldridge, who has forwarded to me a letter from a Syrian gentleman (copy inclosed), which is of interest, as throwing some light on this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 146.

Mr. Schoucair to Consul-General Eldridge.

Beyrout, October 14, 1878.

My dear Sir,

I BEG leave to submit, for your information, the following details respecting the Orthodox Committee of Benevolence at Beyrout.

Ten years ago, four or five Orthodox young men proposed to form a Benevolent Committee, having for object the assistance of the poor of their community at Beyrout. Many persons accepted the proposition, and a committee of twenty-four persons was at the time founded under the honorary presidency of Halil Effendi Khouri, who declined to accept it, and never attended the sittings; the twenty-four active members met together, and addressed invitations for subscriptions; a great many answered so favourably the invitations that the voluntary subscriptions of the first year amounted to about 120,000 piastres. They entertained with admirable order a large number of poor, numbering about 600 souls. They opened several schools for males and females, and as there was no Bishop at the time, they began their work; and having, on the other hand, obtained the public confidence, they took charge of the wakifs of the church of Beyrout.

When a new Bishop was ordained they elected him President of the Committee. Their work, instead of improving, had a great deal to suffer from the presidency of the Bishop. All the members, and especially their leaders, being of independent character, and desiring to limit as much as possible the powers of the religious chiefs, could never agree with their President, and a secret fight began in the centre of the Committee, which fight continues to exist, and will end by the total destruction of the Committee, which owes now its existence to the energy of one or two of its members.

The Committee led admirably the work with great devotion, zeal, and disinterestedness; about ten schools were founded, where there are now about 1,200 of both sexes; 500 or 600 poor receive regularly weekly and monthly pensions.

Unfortunately, three or four years ago the revenues began to diminish, falling

down from the splendid sum of 120,000 piastres to about 25,000 piastres. The Committee, by its influence, had excited the jealousy of some individuals amongst the Orthodoxes who used to have in their hands the charge of such affairs; those jealous were secretly supported by the Bishop, and tried, and are still trying, to dissolve the Committee. The Bishop, as a clerical chief, in order to have an absolute and independent power, does all his position allows him to do to have the Committee destroyed; and from what I now see, the decennial anniversary the Committee celebrated last week will be remembered together with the last year of its existence.

The Committee was established for pure and benevolent purposes, and it was founded in a time when the community was in a sort of anarchy; every one felt then the necessity of having some reforms introduced in the community. The Bishopric was vacant; the Patriarch wished to have a Greek (by nationality) Bishop ordained for Beyrout. The native Orthodoxes desired a native Bishop, and consequently a national fight broke out between the Patriarch and the community. Three Greek Bishops were ordained for Beyrout, and the three being opposed by the community, secretly encouraged by a Russian hand, were obliged to resign, until at last the present native Bishop was brought from Russia and ordained. The foregoing circumstances produced a natural necessity for national union.

I have been repeatedly requested to accept an effective membership, but for want of time and other private reasons I have always declined to accept it.

The members, who serve gratuitously, meet twice every week, and hold every year a general meeting, to which they invite the principals of the community, and hand to each a pamphlet containing a strict account of all sort of revenues and expenses.

Some of the principal founders, who still continue to be in the Committee, are Freemasons, to whom the Committee owes a great deal for the good administration of the work.

The Maronites have lately imitated the Orthodox example, and formed, about two years ago, a Benevolent Committee, and so the Moslems did this year.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) ESPER SIOUCAIR.

No. 147.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1343.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a telegram from Count Andrassy to Count Zichy, with reference to the suggestion of the Porte that a part of Herzegovina might be surrendered to Montenegro in exchange for Podgoritza and Spuz, in order to avoid the conflict which is considered inevitable, if any attempt were made to compel the inhabitants of those places to give them up to the Montenegrins. As Count Zichy had permitted me to make use of this telegram in speaking on this subject to Safvet Pasha, I availed myself of an opportunity yesterday to read it to his Highness, and to press the arguments against the proposed exchange very strongly upon him. I urged his Highness to lose no time in putting into execution the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin with reference to the evacuation of the districts in question.

Safvet Pasha replied that all the information he received convinced him the more of the difficulty of giving up these districts to Montenegro. He had just seen, his Highness said, a Turkish officer who had come from them, and who had assured him that their inhabitants, both Christians and Mahommedans, were resolved to resist their surrender to the last.

I suggested to his Highness, as I had done before, that the Porte might, at least, withdraw its garrisons from them.

His Highness replied that if an attempt were made to do so, he was persuaded that the officers would be murdered, and that the troops would join with the inhabitants in their resistance to Montenegrin occupation.

Montenegro, his Highness added, was so exhausted by the late war, both in men and means, that she could not take Podgoritza by force.

Safvet Pasha observed that Austria was probably opposed to the exchange that the Porte had proposed, as she would, if it were carried out, lose a part of the Province of Herzegovina. Another arrangement, his Highness thought, might, however, be

effected by giving the port and district of Dulcigno to Montenegro, in lieu of Podgoritza and Spuz. Montenegro would be a gainer by this exchange, and he had been informed that there was a place on the Adriatic which might, at a little expense, be formed into a very convenient port for Scutari, and which would compensate that town for the loss of that of Dulcigno as an outlet for its trade.

I remarked to his Highness that it was not the question whether a more or less suitable arrangement could be come to with Montenegro for the exchange of Spuz and Podgoritza, but whether it were wise and prudent for the Porte to endeavour to evade the execution of any one of the engagements she had contracted under the Treaty of Berlin, and thus to give an excuse to Russia to do the same.

Safvet Pasha answered that Prince Labanoff had led him to believe that Russia would be willing to agree to such an arrangement as had been suggested, if Montenegro would accept it. I observed that it was not improbable she might do so, as it would furnish her with a convenient precedent to insist upon other modifications in the Treaty of Berlin, which she was believed to contemplate, and which might prove a source of very serious danger to Turkey. I again urged his Highness, in the strongest terms, to lose no time, and to take energetic measures, if necessary, in giving over the two districts in question to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 147.

Count Andrassy to Count Zichy.

(Télégraphique.)

LORD SALISBURY vient d'informer le Comte Deym que la Sublime Porte avait l'intention de proposer aux Puissances la cession au Monténégro d'une partie du territoire de l'Herzégovine à occuper par nous, au lieu de Spuz et Podgoritza. La réalisation de cette idée serait avant tout contraire à l'intérêt de la Porte. En effet il est de la plus grande importance pour la Turquie qu'il ne soit portée aucune atteinte aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin. Chaque démarche dans ce sens ne donnerait que prise à la Russie de réclamer également de son côté des modifications au Traité, notamment pour obtenir une prolongation du terme de l'évacuation de la Roumélie Orientale, et il nous serait alors très-difficile de nous y opposer efficacement. En outre, cet échange de territoire ne saurait en aucune façon satisfaire le Monténégro, et sous peu de temps le Prince Nikita ne manquerait pas de soulever par les mêmes raisons les anciennes prétentions sur le Spuz et Podgoritza.

Ces territoires furent de tous temps réclamés par le Monténégro parce que leur fertilité lui fournissait la possibilité d'une existence possible, et ce fut cette considération qui amena le Congrès à accepter cette rectification de frontière.

Une accroissement d'une population de pauvres montagnards ne saurait qu'augmenter la convoitise du Monténégro sur les contrées fertiles de Spuz et de Podgoritza. Notre position ne nous permettrait en aucune façon à accéder à une pareille proposition, qui n'aurait pour effet que de faire dominer nos communications par le Monténégro.

No. 148.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1344. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 29, 1878.*

THE Sultan was good enough to receive me this afternoon at the Palace of Yildiz, on my informing His Majesty that I had a communication of importance to make to him from Her Majesty's Government. Before entering upon the subject of your Lordship's telegram of the 27th instant, relating to the evacuation of the Balkan Peninsula by the Russians, I begged His Majesty to consider what I was about to tell him as strictly confidential, and I ventured to warn His Majesty that I had grounds for suspecting that there were persons in the service of His Majesty, and even within the precincts of the Palace, who betrayed to the Russian Embassy information of a

secret and confidential character. His Majesty expressed his great surprise that this should be the case, and thanked me for placing him upon his guard, adding that he should consider the means of having a strict inquiry made into the matter.

I then proceeded to inform His Majesty, in pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's two telegrams of the 27th instant, that Her Majesty's Government had considered with great care the reports which had reached them as to the Russian proceedings in the Balkan Peninsula, which appear to show but little respect for the Treaty of Berlin, and might be intended to intimidate Turkey. I had been directed, I said, by Her Majesty's Government to state to His Majesty confidentially that the Queen was fully resolved to insist on the evacuation of Bulgaria and Roumelia by Russia next May, in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, and that if force were necessary, Her Majesty would co-operate with the Sultan for the purpose.

I added that Her Majesty's Government had every confidence that other Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, would take a similar view of their obligations under that Treaty. I warned His Majesty that it was, however, absolutely necessary that all the stipulations of the Treaty should be fully carried out by Turkey, as far as she was concerned, before the time came for the evacuation of the Balkan Peninsula by Russia, and that Her Majesty's Government, in instructing me to make the present communication to His Majesty, assumed that such would be the case.

The Sultan was deeply moved by what I had stated to him. His Majesty rose up and clasped me by the hand with a great deal of emotion, saying that this was a fresh and unexpected proof of the friendship and justice of England. He had from his youth placed the most entire confidence in her, and would ever continue to do so. He trusted that his successors would do the same.

His Majesty begged me to convey to the Queen and her Government the expression of his deep gratitude for the communication that I had been instructed to make to him. His Majesty said that he had been experiencing great alarm and anxiety in consequence of the attitude and proceedings of the Russians, which were now succeeded by a sense of joy and hope in the future which he could not describe. He assured me that it was his most earnest desire and intention to fulfil every one of the engagements that he had contracted by the Treaty of Berlin. Only one thing, His Majesty observed, remained to be done, as far as he was aware, in this respect, to give up Podgoritza and Spuz. They were comparatively small and insignificant places, and after the immense territorial sacrifices which he had already made, could he be suspected of wishing to retain them contrary to the solemn obligations he had incurred?

There were some difficulties in the way of their surrender, which, however, he thought could be overcome. Their inhabitants, he believed, were resolutely determined not to live under Montenegrin rule, and would emigrate rather than be given over to it. Such being the case, some land might be found for them elsewhere, and provision made for supporting them until they could support themselves. His Majesty added that he had, some time ago, issued the most peremptory orders to the Grand Vizier to make arrangements without loss of time for the evacuation of these districts, and that he should at once send for his Highness and repeat those orders. His Majesty begged me to speak strongly on the subject to his Highness.

I expressed my satisfaction at the determination of His Majesty to surrender the two places in question without delay, as their retention by the Turkish authorities, I said, threatened to lead to serious disturbances on the frontiers, and was creating an unfavourable impression in Europe against Turkey. I then urged His Majesty very strongly to endeavour to come to some arrangement with Austria on the Bosnian question, by meeting the conciliatory overtures which the Austro-Hungarian Government had recently made to the Porte.

I placed before him the immense importance of cordial and united action between Austria, England, and the Porte, if the time came when it were necessary to call upon Russia to evacuate the territories she now occupied to the south of the Danube.

I ventured to hint to His Majesty that I had reason to believe that the Austrian Ambassador felt some dissatisfaction at not having been recently invited to see His Majesty, and that it might be wise and politic for His Majesty to receive Count Zichy.

The Sultan promised to take what I had said to him into serious consideration, and begged me to believe that he was seriously desirous of maintaining the closest relations with Austria, and greatly regretted that anything should have arisen to

disturb them, as he was well aware of the great importance to Turkey of an intimate understanding with that Empire.

I further submitted to His Majesty that it was most desirable, in the interests of Turkey, that the friendly advance made by Roumania should be met in a similar spirit by the Porte. His Majesty replied that he was quite of my opinion, and that he had given orders long ago that a Turkish Representative should be sent to that country at once. In this instance, again, he had to complain of the dilatoriness of the Grand Vizier.

The Sultan as I was leaving him asked Sir Alfred Sandison to give him an informal Memorandum in Turkish of what I had said to him from the Queen as regards her resolution that the Russians should evacuate the Balkan Peninsula in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin. I saw no objection to Sir Alfred Sandison's complying with His Majesty's request. On the contrary, as the communication I had made to him was one of very great importance, I thought it desirable that there should be no misunderstanding or mistake in the matter. I accordingly authorized Sir Alfred Sandison to put into writing in Turkish for His Majesty the precise words that I had used as I have reported to your Lordship at the commencement of this despatch.

His Majesty earnestly begged me not to allow any one, except the Grand Vizier, to know of the communication that I had made to him, as, if the Russians were to hear of it, they might attribute what had occurred to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 149.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1346. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 29, 1878.*

THE Sultan invited Baker Pasha to the Palace yesterday, and in the presence of Ghazi Osman Pasha and the Minister of War, ordered that he should have the complete command of the Buyuk-Tchekmedji lines, and that all that was necessary should be placed at his disposal. His Majesty also reiterated his request that Baker Pasha should see him personally every Friday, and report to him what wants remained unsupplied.

Baker Pasha informs me that in consequence of this direct interference on the part of the Sultan, all the departments are working rapidly and well, and that he hopes to place the Buyuk-Tchekmedji lines in a perfect state of defence before the bad weather sets in, if he has a sufficient number of men placed under his orders.

The Sultan spoke to me to-day very highly of Baker Pasha, and again expressed his intention of naming him one of his aides-de-camp.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 151.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1348.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 30, 1878.*

WHILST Russia complains to Europe that the Porte has not taken proper measures to occupy the country which her army has evacuated, and to secure adequate protection to the lives and property of its Christian population, the Porte, on the other hand, complains of the difficulties which Russia has thrown in the way of the advance of the Ottoman troops, and of the ill-treatment that the Turkish officials who have been charged with taking over the administration have received from the Russian authorities. I inclose an article on this subject from the semi-official paper, the "Turquie."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 151.

Extract from "La Turquie" of October 30, 1878.

L'OPINION publique Européenne commence à mieux apprécier la situation telle qu'elle existe en Orient. Les impatiences que l'on témoignait à l'égard de la Turquie qu'on accusait de lenteur dans l'exécution du Traité de Berlin, semblent aujourd'hui s'adresser à la Russie. Ce qui se passe en Roumélie est, sans nul doute, de nature à confirmer la critique des actes du Gouvernement Russe.

En effet, la Turquie à rempli, conformément au Traité de Berlin, tous ses engagements envers la Russie. Peut-on dire qu'il y a eu réciprocité de la part de cette Puissance?

Un moment on a cru que les troupes Russes se retireraient à Andrinople. Le Gouvernement Ottoman, informé du mouvement de retraite de l'armée Russe, mouvement qui était dans les prévisions des Traités, s'est empressé de nommer les fonctionnaires qui devaient administrer les localités abandonnées. Qu'arriva-t-il? Le Chef de la police, Mestan Agha, qui avait devancé le sous-Gouverneur et le Cadi à Lulé-Bourgas, non-seulement n'a pas reçu un accueil favorable, mais les autorités Russes, après lui avoir pris ses armes, l'ont renvoyé, en l'injuriant.

Plus tard, le Cadi et le sous-Gouverneur n'ont pas rencontré une réception plus courtoise. A l'exhibition des pouvoirs dont ils étaient munis, il leur fut répondu qu'on n'avait pas d'instructions du Gouvernement Russe. Ces fonctionnaires sont restés une nuit à Lulé-Bourgas après avoir fourni caution et, le long de la route, à leur retour sur Tchorlou, ils furent constamment harcelés et poursuivis par des bandes de Bulgares armés. Quelques habitants de Lulé-Bourgas, qui avaient communiqué avec le sous-Gouverneur et le Cadi, ont été, assure-t-on, arrêtés et mis en prison.

Ces faits et d'autres encore que nous aurons à signaler ne peuvent rester longtemps inconnus. Aussi, d'après un télégramme de Londres, le "Times" insiste pour que l'Angleterre, la France, et l'Autriche s'unissent dans une action commune pour obtenir de la Russie qu'elle accomplisse ses obligations en ce qui touche l'exécution du Traité de Berlin. Le journal de la Cité exprime l'espoir que le Prince de Bismarck donnera son appui à ces Puissances et tiendra à honneur de ne pas laisser incomplète une œuvre dont il a été l'inspirateur et le guide.

No. 152.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1349.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, October 30, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt, reporting that Amoush Agha, the Chief of Police in Thessaly, has been recalled. I had asked for the removal of this officer, in consequence of the representations of Mr. Blunt with regard to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 152.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, October 19, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 3rd ultimo, I have the honour to report to your Excellency that Amoush Agha, Chief of Police in Thessaly, has been recalled, and that Omer Agha, the Chief of Police in Sandjak of Prevesa, has been appointed in his room.

Amoush Agha is ordered to proceed to Janina.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 153.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1351.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 30, 1878.*

I HAVE much pleasure in transmitting to your Lordship copy of a despatch from Mr. Consul Blunt, informing me that Christian evidence is now received and accepted in the local Civil and Criminal Court of Larissa, presided over by the Cadi Mehemet Emin Effendi. I trust that ere long the example set by this Judge will be followed throughout the Empire, and that one of the most serious of the grievances of which the Christian subjects of the Sultan have to complain will thus be removed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 153.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, October 19, 1878.*

I HAVE been assured by the Christian members of the local Civil and Criminal Court, which is presided over by the Cadi Mehemet Emin Effendi, that the evidence of Christians, of non-Mahommedans in general, is now respected and accepted in all cases which are tried at this Court, and in which Mahommedans appear as plaintiffs or defendants.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 154.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1352.)
My Lord, *Therapia, October 31, 1878.*

WHEN I had the honour of seing the Sultan on Tuesday last, I was able to inform His Majesty of the arrival of Mr. Harrison, who, I said, had been sent by your Lordship to make a full inquiry into the financial condition of Turkey, and to whose mission you attached great importance. His Majesty replied that he had heard with great satisfaction that Mr. Harrison had arrived, and expressed a wish to see him on the following day.

His Majesty said that he would be glad if Mr. Harrison would act on the Financial Commission which he had just named, and be one of its Vice-Presidents. His Majesty added that it was his firm intention to give to this Commission the fullest powers, and to receive himself its reports and recommendations, upon which he was determined to act.

Sir Alfred Sandison accordingly took Mr. Harrison to the Palace yesterday, and I beg to inclose a Memorandum he has given to me of what passed with His Majesty.

There is no doubt that, as a member of the Financial Commission, Mr. Harrison will be best able to obtain all the information that he may require as to the finances of the Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 154.

Memorandum.

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, and the wish expressed by the Sultan on Monday last, I presented Mr. Harrison to His Majesty this afternoon.

The Sultan, who gave him a very cordial reception, entered at once into the

financial question, which he hoped would receive attention from Mr. Harrison as one which largely affected European pecuniary interests. His Majesty went on to say that in dealing with this highly important matter the newly-appointed Commission should forthwith direct its efforts towards re-establishing the financial credit of the Empire, and taking measures for preventing the further depreciation of the paper currency. It being perhaps too difficult to withdraw the caimé now in circulation, the object of the Commission should be to devise some means which would prevent it from undergoing so great and sudden fluctuations. Every support will be given by His Majesty to the arrangements and recommendations of the Commission, and he would confidently look forward to energetic action on the part of Mr. Harrison, who replied that he would do all in his power to meet His Majesty's views on the occasion.

The Sultan then added that he wished to mention two distinct objects he had in view, and to which he wished to call Mr. Harrison's special attention. The first was that Mr. Harrison, acting in concert with the Commission, should minutely examine the general financial situation, in order to ascertain how far it would be possible to serve the interests of his own countrymen by means of some combination calculated to satisfy in some measure the claims of the foreign bondholders, and to raise at the same time the financial credit of the Empire. The second was that he should, with equal care and solicitude, concert with his colleagues the measures best calculated to improve the financial situation locally, especially as regards the paper currency; this, he added, would entitle him to earn His Majesty's own gratitude, as well as that of the country at large, which felt but too acutely all the misery arising from the continual depreciation of the caimé.

Mr. Harrison replied that he would be happy to be able to give satisfaction in both cases, and thanked His Majesty for the confidence which he was pleased to place in him.

In concluding the conversation the Sultan asked Mr. Harrison to go and see him often, and to submit to him any observations or suggestions which he might think useful.

(Signed) A. SANDISON.

Therapia, October 30, 1878.

No. 155.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 7.)

(No. 1353.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the new Organic Law which the Porte proposes to submit to the consideration of the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, to be applied to that province in accordance with the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am informed that if this Organic Law should be approved by the Commission, the Porte has the intention of extending it, with the necessary modifications, to the provinces of Turkey in Europe for which a special organization has not been provided by the Treaty of Berlin, after it has been examined and approved by Special Commissioners, according to the stipulations contained in the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 155.

Draft of "Règlement Organique" for Eastern Roumelia proposed by the Porte.

1. LA Roumélie Orientale est divisée en sandjaks (départements).
Le sandjak est divisé en cazas (arrondissements).
Le caza est divisé en nahiés (cantons).
Le nahié se compose d'un groupe de kariés (communes).
La formation des sandjaks, des cazas, et des nahiés est faite par la Sublime Porte.

2. La province est gouvernée par un Gouverneur-Général, assisté d'un Conseil Administratif et par un Conseil-Général.

3. Le Gouverneur-Général est nommé par la Sublime Porte pour un terme de cinq ans.

Il est assisté d'un Conseil Administratif.

Il a auprès de lui un Secrétaire-Général nommé par la Sublime Porte.

Les autres fonctionnaires attachés à l'Administration sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil Administratif, et choisis autant que possible parmi les habitants de la province, sans distinction de race et de religion.

4. Le Gouverneur-Général représente le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, envers lequel il est responsable.

Il réunit toutes les attributions du pouvoir exécutif. Il exerce ses fonctions dans toute l'étendue de la province avec l'assistance de ses Directeurs et au moyen des Mutessarifs, des Caïmakams, et des Mudirs.

5. Le Gouverneur-Général est assisté de sept Directeurs, savoir:—

Le Directeur de la Justice.
Le Directeur de la Correspondance.
Le Directeur des Finances.
Le Directeur des Travaux Publics et du Cadastre.
Le Directeur de l'Agriculture et du Commerce.
Le Directeur des Domaines.
Et le Directeur des Contributions Indirectes.

Ces Directeurs ont dans leurs attributions les affaires spéciales de leurs Départements respectifs.

Ils sont nommés par Iradé Impérial sur la proposition de chacun des Ministères de la Sublime Porte, dont ils sont les organes et sur l'avis conforme du Gouverneur-Général.

Indépendamment des causes légales de révocation, les Directeurs peuvent être remplacés à la demande du Gouverneur-Général.

6. Le Secrétaire-Général et les sept Directeurs constituent le Conseil Administratif du Gouverneur-Général.

Le Gouverneur-Général est tenu de prendre l'avis de son Conseil Administratif pour toute mesure non prévue par une disposition légale ou réglementaire.

7. Le Conseil-Général de la Roumélie Orientale se compose:—

(1.) De trois Délégués de chaque caza élus par la population conformément à la Loi Electorale annexée au présent Règlement, et qui en fait partie intégrante.

(2.) De membres nommés par la Gouverneur-Général, en nombre égal à la moitié de la totalité des membres élus par les cazas.

Cette nomination sera faite conformément à la disposition spéciale inscrite dans la Loi Electorale.

8. Le Conseil-Général est renouvelé par moitié tous les deux ans dans les mêmes conditions et dans les mêmes formes.

Ce renouvellement aura lieu par cazas, c'est-à-dire que tous les deux ans la moitié des cazas de la province sera appelée à élire ses Délégués, et que le Gouverneur-Général désignera comme il est dit à l'Article précédent, un nombre égal à la moitié des membres élus.

Lors du premier renouvellement les cazas appelés à élire leurs Délégués seront désignés par le sort.

9. Les attributions du Conseil-Général consistent:—

(1.) Dans la discussion et l'adoption de tous les règlements qui lui seront présentés par le Gouverneur-Général, lesquels règlements devront être soumis à la sanction Impériale.

(2.) Dans l'examen et le vote du budget annuel de la province, et dans l'examen et l'approbation des comptes de l'exercice écoulé.

(3.) Dans l'examen et l'adoption de tout projet et de toute mesure concernant les différentes branches de l'administration de la province, ainsi que des institutions et des entreprises intéressant l'agriculture, les travaux publics, le commerce, et l'instruction publique.

(4.) Dans l'examen et la prise en considération, s'il y a lieu, des vœux et des plaintes des délégués locaux.

10. Les Directeurs pourront être délégués par le Gouverneur-Général, chacun en ce qui concerne les affaires de sa direction, près du Conseil-Général (1) pour prendre part à la discussion des règlements, projets, et mesures soumis aux délibérations du Conseil-Général; (2) pour fournir les informations qui leur seront demandées touchant

les notes de l'administration et l'exécution, durant l'année écoulée, des décisions du Conseil-Général.

11. Le Conseil-Général se réunit en session ordinaire une fois chaque année dans la première quinzaine du mois de

La durée de la session est de deux mois au plus.

Le Gouverneur-Général, avec l'assentiment de la Sublime Porte, a le droit de convoquer le Conseil-Général en session extraordinaire dans le courant de l'année pour un objet déterminé. Il a le droit, avec l'assentiment de la Sublime Porte, de dissoudre le Conseil-Général à charge de faire procéder, dans un délai de six mois au plus, à la formation et à la convocation d'un nouveau Conseil-Général dans les conditions et suivant les formes réglementaires.

12. Le Président et les deux Vice-Présidents du Conseil-Général sont choisis par le Gouverneur-Général parmi les dix candidats élus par le Conseil-Général à la majorité des voix et au scrutin secret.

13. Chaque caza nomme conformément aux dispositions de la Loi Electorale, pour une durée de quatre ans, un délégué local chargé de recueillir, de présenter, et de soutenir près du Gouverneur-Général et, au besoin, près du Conseil-Général, les vœux et les plaintes des cazas.

A cet effet chacun de ces Conseillers Locaux, après s'être enquis des besoins de sa circonscription et s'être concerté avec les autorités du caza, se rendra au chef-lieu de la province un mois avant l'ouverture de la session du Conseil-Général.

Les Délégués Locaux ainsi réunis prépareront, après en avoir conféré avec le Conseil Administratif, les éléments des vœux et des plaintes des cazas en général ou de chaque caza en particulier, qui seront soumis aux délibérations du Conseil-Général.

Les Délégués Locaux auront le droit d'être entendus par le Conseil-Général pour la défense des intérêts dont ils sont les organes. Ils séjourneront au chef-lieu un mois encore après la clôture de la session, à l'effet de prendre connaissance de l'exécution ou de l'acheminement des mesures adoptées par le Conseil-Général concernant leurs cazas respectifs.

14. Le sandjak est administré par un Mutessarif, placé sous l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général.

Il est nommé par la Sublime Porte, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général.

15. Le Mutessarif est assisté d'un Conseil, composé des trois plus hauts fonctionnaires du sandjak, savoir : le Mouhassebedji . . .

Les attributions de ce Conseil sont dans la limite des intérêts locaux du sandjak les mêmes que celles du Conseil Administratif du Gouverneur-Général.

16. Le caza est administré par un Caïmacam agissant sous l'autorité du Mutessarif.

Il est nommé par la Sublime Porte, sur la proposition du Mutessarif agréée par le Gouverneur-Général.

17. Le nahié constitue l'unité administrative de la province.

Les nahiés sont divisés en trois classes suivant leur importance au point de vue des intérêts locaux et politiques.

Le nahié de première classe est administré par un Mudir, un Juge de Paix, et un Maire.

Dans les nahiés de seconde classe, le Maire exerce en même temps les attributions de Mudir.

Dans les nahiés de troisième classe, le Maire réunit à ses propres attributions celles de Mudir et de Juge de Paix.

18. Le Mudir et le Juge de Paix sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général.

Le Maire, soit qu'il exerce ses seules fonctions, soit qu'il les cumule avec celles de Mudir et de Juge de Paix, est élu pour quatre ans par la population du nahié, suivant la Loi Electorale.

19. Le Maire est assisté d'un Conseil Municipal composé de six membres, élus pour quatre ans, suivant la Loi Electorale.

20. Les communes qui composent le nahié, et en sont la subdivision, sont administrées par deux Mouktars, nommés pour quatre ans par la population de la commune suivant la Loi Electorale.

Les Mouktars sont chargés de la police locale, de l'administration des biens et des intérêts communaux, et de la perception des impôts au moyen d'agents qu'ils nomment eux-mêmes.

Les impôts perçus sont versés par les Mouktars entre les mains des percepteurs des nahiés.

Les Mouktars pourront au besoin requérir du Mudir l'assistance d'un ou de plusieurs gendarmes, pour assurer l'ordre public et l'exercice de leurs fonctions.

21. L'ordre public est assuré dans toute l'étendue de la province au moyen d'une gendarmerie indigène recrutée par voie d'engagements volontaires, dont le chiffre sera déterminé par les besoins de chaque localité.

22. La province a, en outre, une milice dont le mandat spécial est d'assister, au besoin, la gendarmerie locale, et qui sera soumise aux lois générales militaires de l'Empire établies et à établir.

23. Il sera tenu compte, pour la formation de ces deux corps, de la religion des populations. Les officiers de ces deux corps sont nommés par la Sublime Porte.

24. La gendarmerie est placée sous l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général.

25. En dehors du cas de flagrant délit, aucune personne ne pourra être arrêtée que sur un mandat du pouvoir judiciaire, ou sur un ordre de l'autorité exécutive représentée par le Gouverneur-Général, les Mutessarifs, les Caïmacams, et les Mudirs.

26. L'enseignement public est libre dans toute l'étendue de la Roumélie Orientale. Il est permis à toute communauté et à toute personne jouissant de ses droits civils d'établir des écoles primaires et supérieures et de faire des cours publics sous la surveillance de l'autorité au point de vue des bonnes mœurs, de l'ordre public, et du respect des lois de l'Empire.

Le Conseil-Général pourra, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, fonder, aux frais de la province, des écoles publiques qui seront facultatives.

27. Chacun des cultes professés dans la province s'exercera librement et sera entretenu aux frais de la communauté à laquelle il appartient.

28. Les lois générales de l'Empire Ottoman sont applicables à la Roumélie Orientale, sauf les modifications et les compléments qui y seraient apportés par une résolution du Conseil-Général, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, et qui auraient été sanctionnés par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

29. La justice est rendue par des Tribunaux Nizamiés : Civils, Commerciaux, Criminels, et Correctionnels.

La compétence de ces Tribunaux s'étend à toutes les contestations mobilières ou immobilières entre les habitants indistinctement, à l'exception des matières concernant le mariage, et en général l'état civil des personnes, lesquelles matières seront déférées pour les Musulmans aux Tribunaux du Chériat et pour les non-Musulmans aux Tribunaux de leurs communautés respectives.

30. Les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale se composent :—

(1.) D'une Justice de Paix dans chaque nahié dont les fonctions sont exercées par un Juge de Paix dans les nahiés de première et de deuxième classe, et par le Maire dans les nahiés de troisième classe.

Le Juge de Paix, assisté de deux Assesseurs, juge en dernier ressort les contestations purement personnelles n'excédant pas 500 piastres, et les délits et contraventions n'entraînant pas une condamnation supérieure à une amende de 50 piastres et à cinq jours de prison. Il juge en premier ressort les contestations purement personnelles n'excédant pas 5,000 piastres, et les délits n'entraînant pas une condamnation à plus de trois mois de prison.

(2.) D'un Tribunal au chef-lieu de chaque sandjak, composé de trois Chambres : Civile, Commerciale, et Criminelle.

Ce Tribunal connaît en dernier ressort des appels des Jugements rendus en premier ressort par les Juges de Paix. Il juge en premier ressort toutes les contestations et tous les crimes ou délits qui lui sont déférés directement.

(3.) D'une Cour d'Appel unique siégeant à Philippopoli divisée en trois Chambres : Civile, Commerciale, et Criminelle, statuant respectivement sur les causes qui leur sont référées par appel des décisions des Tribunaux des chefs-lieux des sandjaks.

Un règlement spécial déterminera, en matière civile, les affaires autres que celles purement personnelles, dont la connaissance sera attribuée aux Juges de Paix, soit en dernier ressort, soit à charge d'appel.

31. Les Juges des Tribunaux et de la Cour d'Appel sont nommés par le Sultan sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général.

Ils ne peuvent être révoqués que pour manquement grave à leur devoir constaté et signalé à la Sublime Porte par le Gouverneur-Général.

32. La justice est rendue au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Les audiences sont publiques.

La défense est libre.

Les Jugements et Arrêts sont prononcés en séance publique.

Le témoignage est reçu sous serment de toute personne, sans distinction de race ou de religion.

33. Un Ministère Public est attaché aux Tribunaux et à la Cour d'Appel.

34. Les instances devant les Tribunaux sont introduites directement sans l'intermédiaire d'aucune Administration.

35. L'exécution des jugements est dévolue aux Tribunaux qui les auront rendus. Elle aura lieu par le ministère d'huissiers nommés par l'autorité publique.

36. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a seul le droit de remettre, de réduire, ou de commuer les peines prononcées par les Tribunaux Criminels.

37. Les abus commis par les fonctionnaires publics pourront être déférés aux Tribunaux ordinaires par les particuliers qui se prétendront lésés.

38. Les jugements ou arrêts sont rendus en langue Turque, mais avec une traduction officielle en langue Bulgare ou en langue Grecque, si les parties ou l'une d'elles appartient à l'une ou à l'autre de ces deux races.

39. Jusqu'au jour où le régime actuel des impôts directs et indirectes aura été réformé, les impôts actuellement existants continueront à être perçus dans la Roumélie Orientale dans la forme prescrite au présent règlement.

Le Conseil-Général aura le droit, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, d'apporter à chacune des branches de l'impôt direct ou indirect telles modifications qu'il jugera utiles, et même de transformer entièrement le système de telle ou telle contribution, sauf la sanction Impériale exigée pour la validité de tout acte législatif.

Inclosure 2 in No. 155.

Draft of Electoral Law for Eastern Roumelia.

1. SONT électeurs les habitants mâles, sujets Ottomans, âgés de 21 ans accomplis, et domiciliés dans la Roumélie Orientale, à l'exception—

(1.) Des aliénés et des interdits.

(2.) Des personnes qui ont été condamnées à une peine afflictive ou infamante, ou à une peine correctionnelle pour abus de confiance ou escroquerie.

(3.) Des faillis non réhabilités.

(4.) Des personnes qui sont attachées à un service public étranger.

2. Sont éligibles au Conseil-Général, aux fonctions de Maire, aux Conseils Municipaux, et aux fonctions de Délégués Locaux, les habitants mâles, sujets Ottomans, domiciliés dans la Roumelie Orientale, âgés de 30 ans accomplis, et payant une contribution directe de 100 piastres par an, ou exerçant une profession libérale en vertu d'un diplôme délivré en Turquie ou par une Université étrangère reconnue par la Sublime Porte, à l'exception —

(1.) De tous ceux qui, d'après l'Article précédent, sont incapables d'être électeurs.

(2.) De ceux qui ne savent pas lire ou écrire dans l'une des trois langues, Turque, Grecque, ou Bulgare.

(3.) Des gens de service.

3. Les fonctions de membre du Conseil-Général sont incompatibles avec l'exercice d'une autre fonction publique.

4. La liste des électeurs et celle des éligibles seront formées dans les formes et dans les conditions suivantes:—Les Imams et les Prêtres de chaque nahié feront parvenir au Gouverneur-Général une liste des notables de toute race, habitant le nahié, parmi lesquels le Gouverneur choisira cinq notables qui constitueront un Comité Electoral. Le Comité, assisté d'un Secrétaire payé, dressera la liste des électeurs et celle des éligibles du nahié. Ces listes seront remises au Mudir qui les communiquera au Juge de Paix et les fera publier par voie d'affiches et par les autres moyens de publicité qui seront à sa disposition, en même temps qu'il fera savoir par les mêmes moyens à la population que toute personne a le droit de produire ses observations sur la composition des listes et sur les erreurs ou omissions qu'elle croirait devoir signaler.

Les observations et les réclamations des particuliers seront reçues par le Mudir qui les référera au Juge de Paix, lequel sera tenu de statuer par écrit et dans les dix jours. Les décisions du Juge de Paix seront appelables devant la Chambre Civile du Tribunal de Première Instance le plus rapproché, lequel devra rendre sa décision dans le délai d'un mois.

Les listes électorales seront rectifiées suivant les décisions du Juge de Paix ou,

en cas d'appel, du Tribunal de Première Instance, et les rectifications seront portées à la connaissance du public dans les mêmes formes que les listes elles-mêmes.

Les listes des électeurs et des éligibles du nahié ainsi établies seront transmises au Gouverneur-Général par entremise hiérarchique des Caïmacams et des Mutessarifs. Les listes générales des électeurs et des éligibles de la Roumelie Orientale seront ainsi formées d'une manière définitive et permanente, sauf leur révision annuelle, ainsi qu'il est dit à l'Article suivant.

5. Au mois de de chaque année la liste des électeurs et celles des éligibles sera révisée dans chaque nahié par un Comité composé, dans les nahiés de première classe, du Mudir, du Maire, du Juge de Paix; dans les nahiés de deuxième classe, du Maire, du Juge de Paix, et d'un Notable désigné par eux; dans les nahiés de troisième classe, du Maire, et de deux Notables désignés par lui.

Les listes ainsi révisées seront publiées, et les réclamations auxquelles elles pourraient donner lieu devront se produire dans le délai de quinze jours, et seront jugées en premier ressort par le Comité, et en appel par la Chambre Civile du Tribunal de Première Instance le plus rapproché, à la requête directe de la partie intéressée.

6. La Roumélie Orientale sera divisée en circonscriptions électorales comprenant chacune 50,000 âmes environ.

7. Deux mois avant l'époque fixée pour les élections au Conseil-Général il sera formé, par ordre du Gouverneur-Général, un Comité composé de tous les Mudirs de la circonscription, et chargé de procéder aux élections.

Ce Comité Electoral s'adjoindra les employés rétribués, ou non rétribués, dont il aura besoin pour l'exercice de son mandat.

Il prendra toutes les dispositions nécessaires pour faire connaître au public par toutes les voies de publicité à sa disposition, le jour et les heures de l'élection, au chef-lieu de chaque nahié compris dans la circonscription. Le Comité Electoral se transportera successivement, et au jour indiqué, dans chacun des chefs-lieux des nahiés, pour procéder à l'élection, de façon à ce que les opérations électorales puissent être accomplies dans un nombre de jours déterminé, et aussi court que possible.

8. Le Bureau Electoral dans chaque chef-lieu de nahié sera composé du Comité Electoral de la circonscription, et de trois électeurs choisis par le Comité parmi les habitants du chef-lieu.

9. Chaque électeur, après avoir fait constater par le Bureau son identité et sa qualité d'électeur dans la circonscription du nahié, déposera dans l'urne fermée par le Bureau un bulletin fermé contenant le nom de deux personnes de son choix comme membres du Conseil-Général.

Le Bureau tiendra procès-verbal des incidents et des réclamations qui pourraient se produire.

10. Aussitôt après la clôture de l'élection à l'heure indiquée, le Bureau dépouillera les votes, et dressera procès-verbal de cette opération, lequel sera signé de tous les membres du Bureau.

11. Le Comité Electoral, dans l'achèvement de l'élection dans toute la circonscription, transmettra les procès-verbaux et les bulletins scellés et cachetés au Gouverneur-Général par l'entremise du Mutessarif du sandjak.

12. Le Comité Administratif et les Délégués Locaux, réunis sous la présidence du Gouverneur-Général, procéderont à la vérification et au récollement des procès-verbaux des nahiés, et au besoin, en cas de doute ou réclamation, à la vérification des bulletins, et proclameront l'élection au Conseil-Général des trois candidats qui auront réuni le plus de voix dans chaque circonscription électorale.

Dans le cas où deux candidats auraient réuni le même nombre de suffrages, le nom de l'élu sera désigné par le sort. Le Gouverneur-Général proclamera immédiatement le résultat des élections.

13. Le Gouverneur-Général, aussitôt après la proclamation du résultat des élections nommera, conformément à l'Article 7 du Règlement Organique, un nombre de membres du Conseil-Général égal à la moitié du chiffre des membres élus, choisis par lui parmi les éligibles de toute la province. Il transmettra à la Sublime Porte le résultat des élections et le procès-verbal dressé par le Conseil Administratif et les Délégués Locaux, ainsi que la liste des membres complémentaires nommés par lui.

14. L'élection des Délégués Locaux, institués par l'Article 13 du Règlement Organique, aura lieu dans les formes suivantes:—Les électeurs de chaque caza seront convoqués au chef-lieu du caza, au jour indiqué par le Gouverneur-Général, à l'effet d'élire un Délégué Local.

Le Caïmacam fera publier, par tous les moyens à sa disposition, le jour et les

heures d'élection. Le Bureau sera composé du Caïmacam, assisté de deux électeurs du chef-lieu des cazas choisis par lui.

Chaque électeur, après avoir fait constater par le Bureau son identité et son inscription sur la liste électorale, déposera dans l'urne un bulletin fermé, portant le nom de son candidat.

Le dépouillement des votes, les procès-verbaux, et leur transmission au Gouverneur-Général, auront lieu dans les mêmes formes que pour l'élection des Conseillers-Généraux.

Le Conseil Administratif, sous la présidence du Gouverneur-Général, vérifiera les procès-verbaux d'élection, et arrêtera la liste des Délégués Locaux élus, dont les noms seront proclamés et publiés par les soins du Gouverneur-Général, qui en transmettra en même temps la liste à la Sublime Porte.

15. L'élection du Maire et des cinq Conseillers Municipaux du nahié aura lieu au chef-lieu du nahié dans les mêmes formes que l'élection du Délégué Local du caza. Le Bureau sera composé du Mudir en fonction et de deux Notables électeurs choisi par lui. Chaque électeur déposera dans l'urne un bulletin portant trois noms.

Le candidat qui aura obtenu le plus de voix sera déclaré élu Maire du nahié; les cinq candidats qui après lui auront obtenu le plus de voix seront élus Conseillers Municipaux du nahié.

Les procès-verbaux des élections municipales seront dressés et transmis au Gouverneur-Général dans les mêmes formes, et par les mêmes voies, que pour l'élection des Délégués Locaux.

No. 156.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 7.*)

(No. 1354.) *Therapia, October* 31, 1878.

My Lord,

The Commission appointed by the Sultan to inquire into the financial condition of the Empire, and to advise measures for its improvement, and for introducing the necessary reforms for this purpose, is at present composed of the following Members, who have been named by His Majesty himself:—

President.—Hairedin Pasha.

Vice-Presidents.—The English and French Commissioners.

Members.—Mr. Foster, Manager of the Ottoman Bank; M. Mercet, Director of the Crédit Lyonnais; Hassan Tehmi, ex-President of the Chamber of Deputies; Tewfik Effendi, a functionary of the Ministry of Finance; Ohannes Effendi, an Armenian gentleman of high character; and Castro Bey, a British subject of Maltese extraction, and a lawyer.

All these nominations are exceptionally good, except, perhaps, that of the last-named gentleman. A better selection than that of Hairedin Pasha for the President of the Commission could not have been made, if I have rightly judged his character.

I have the honour to inclose the regulations relating to the formation and attributions of the Commission, which have been published officially.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 156.

Extract from the "Phare du Bosphore" of October 30, 1878.

La Commission Financière.—La Commission Financière a tenu hier au Malié, sa première séance, sous la présidence du Sénateur Khaïreddin Pacha.

Le "Vakit" publie dans son numéro d'aujourd'hui le Règlement relatif à cette Commission, et que nous donnons ci-bas la traduction.

Règlement relatif à la formation et aux attributions de la Commission Financière:—

Article 1. La Commission se réunira tous les jours, à l'exception de Vendredi et de Dimanche.

Art. 2. La Commission ne pourra pas avoir moins de sept ni plus de onze membres.

Art. 3. La Commission devra examiner minutieusement le budget des recettes et des dépenses de l'Empire, et établir le budget de l'exercice de l'année prochaine, de manière à relever le crédit financière de l'Etat. Ce budget sera publié. Elle devra réformer et assurer la bonne administration des finances, et après mûres délibérations sur les dettes générales de l'Empire, fixer l'annuité des intérêts, en rapport avec les recettes à obtenir. Il est du devoir de la Commission de réduire les dépenses extraordinaires et ordinaires, et de rechercher les moyens les plus propres à augmenter les recettes, ainsi que d'indiquer un meilleur procédé pour la perception des impôts. La Commission devra soumettre à la Sublime Porte le résultat de ses délibérations pour être soumis ensuite à la sanction Impériale.

La Commission est autorisée à s'adresser aux fonctionnaires et aux registres du Malié pour prendre les informations nécessaires, et d'examiner attentivement les budgets des exercices précédents et indiquer enfin toutes mesures qu'elle croira avantageuses. La Commission est chargée également de délibérer sur les rapports relatifs à la suppression du "caïmé" et de rechercher les moyens d'arriver à ce but.

Art. 4. Les mesures que la Commission soumettra à la Sublime Porte, conformément à l'Article 3, seront débattus au sein du Conseil des Ministres, et dans le cas où ces mesures se trouveront être conformes aux droits de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et aux intérêts du Gouvernement et de la nation, elles seront soumises, par un "mazbata," à la sanction du Souverain et mises à exécution après qu'elles auront obtenu l'Iradé Impérial.

Art. 5. Si les mesures prises par la Commission l'exigent, les Ministres, le Président, et quelques-uns des membres de la Commission se réuniront en Conseil Extraordinaire, sous la Présidence de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Art. 6. Si la Commission voit la nécessité d'ajouter certains autres Articles à ce Règlement, elle en informera la Sublime Porte qui, si elle les accepte, les soumettra à la sanction Impériale.

Art. 7. Les décisions de la Commission, après avoir été sanctionnées par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, seront publiées dans les journaux.

Art. 8. Le bureau de la Commission se composera de huit membres, dont deux pour les langues étrangères, quatre pour la comptabilité, et deux pour le Secrétariat.

Art. 9. Aucun délai n'est fixé pour les travaux de la Commission. Après qu'elle aura réglé le Budget de l'Etat, fixé l'annuité des intérêts pour les dettes extérieures, et accompli sa tâche, la Commission sera dissoute par une Ordonnance Impériale.

No. 157.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 7.*)

(No. 1358. Confidential.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from two interesting private letters addressed to me by Vice-Consul Calvert, with reference to the state of affairs at Philippopolis and in Macedonia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 157.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)

(Extract.) *Philippopolis, October* 29, 1878.

I REFER all complaints of ill-treatment on the part of the Turkish population to the British Commissioners. Several very serious cases have already been brought to their notice, cases of quite recent date, and I understand that they will be reported by Sir Drummond Wolff. Mr. Cartwright has also drawn up a Memorandum on the destruction of the Turkish houses. I conducted him and Mr. Palgrave yesterday over the Turkish quarters, and, not having visited them for some time, was myself surprised to see the extent of the destruction.

On Saturday, the day of the arrival of the British Commissioners, 150 Russian soldiers were told off to pull down Moslem houses. One of the first houses they set to work upon was that of my cavass, and I was obliged to apply to the Governor to save his dwelling. I suppose the increased activity in the destruction of Mussulman property was by way of showing the Turkish population that they need not hope for any improvement of their condition from the presence of the International Commission. Moreover, the Russian officers are in want of fuel, and they could not have a more economical manner of getting it.

It is probable that unless the Commission succeed in stopping the destruction all traces of the Turkish houses whose owners have not returned will have disappeared before the spring. The Russians generally spare the houses which are inhabited by their owners. My cavass lives at the Consulate, and his family not having returned, his house was supposed to be deserted.

Captain Murray left for Samakow and Kustendil on the [?] instant, as he could not possibly learn anything of the insurrectionary movements of the Russians and Bulgarians, even in a military point of view, at Philibé, anything, *i.e.*, which I could not ascertain equally well myself. I provided him with a man speaking the Russian and native languages, through whom, I hope, he will be able to gather the required information. It would seem also desirable that some person of confidence should also be sent to the eastern and northern frontier districts of Macedonia, to find out the actual state of affairs.

The priest Methoduris Kousovitch, whom I telegraphed to your Excellency as being the agent and spy at Constantinople of the Bulgar revolutionary committees, arrived here three or four days ago. I have not been able to ascertain for what purpose.

It seems quite probable, though I cannot state this as a fact, that the Bulgar militia of Eastern Roumelia will be (at all events a portion of it) drafted into the insurgent ranks. I hear that all the remaining militia now at Philibé will march to Sofia at the end of this week, as also the students in the Military School, about eighty in number.

The Bulgarian Exarch intends to take up his residence at Constantinople in about a week. He will have spiritual jurisdiction over the whole of the Bulgarian population in Bulgaria, Eastern Roumelia, Macedonia, &c.

Petko is again mustering irregular forces to attack the Rhodope mountaineers; 170 volunteers from the Carlovo district have passed through Philibé in the last fortnight on their way to join him. They are supplied here with two days' provisions, a rifle and ammunition, and 180 piastres in money, and are conducted as far as the Russian lines by zaptiehs, to prevent their committing depredations in territory occupied by the Russian army. Once beyond that boundary they may, it is to be presumed, commit as many misdemeanours as they please.

Petko has six Greek brigand Chiefs under him. The Greeks and Bulgarians in Macedonia, from all accounts, are at one with regard to the contemplated overthrow of Turkish rule. When that object is accomplished a rupture and conflict are more than likely to break out between the Greek and Bulgarian sections of the population.

Inclosure 2 in No. 157.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extract.)

AS the Russians talk with very little concealment on certain subjects before the native Bulgars and Greeks, and the latter (especially the Greeks) very often repeat the sayings of the Russians to me, I sometimes hear interesting things, which the Russians would probably never have spoken of before me. For instance, the proprietor of the house in which General Stolipine (the new Governor-General) lives (a Greek) told me to-day that the General spoke to him yesterday as follows:—

"I will reward you for having placed your entire house at my disposal by ordering that, after I leave, no other officers shall be quartered upon you. I am desirous of making friends with everybody in this county—with Bulgars, Greeks, Armenians—with everybody except the Turks. I will do everything I can to make them quit the country, and I shall succeed, you will see."

General Stolipine also told my Greek colleague the other day that it was a great

mistake not to have hanged Arif and Shaban Aghas at once. If that had been done, probably the other Turks would have been effectually deterred from returning to the province.

No. 158.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1360.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Larissa, Salonica, Adrianople, Prevesa, Bourgas, reporting upon matters of interest in their respective districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 158.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, October* 19, 1878.

ON the 14th instant, a Circassian female slave, named Perver, aged 27 years, and owned by Osman Effendi, of this place, ran away from her master, and took refuge in my house, claiming my assistance to recover her freedom, as due by the Mahommedan law, which prescribes the liberation of a slave upon the completion of seven years' service, she having served fourteen years.

I at once sent her to the authorities, accompanied with a request that her case should be inquired into, and I have now the satisfaction to report to your Excellency that she has to-day received her "Azaat kayat," or certificate of manumission, under an order issued by the Cadi Mehmed Effendi, as President of the Civil Court.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 158.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, October* 19, 1878.

THE six battalions of infantry and one battery of artillery, whose arrival at Volo I reported to your Excellency in my telegram of the 15th instant, have been sent to Carditza, which forms the centre of Ali Saïd Pasha's army of observation in Thessaly. I inclose copy of a Report from Mr. Longworth upon the conduct and condition of these troops.

Ali Saïd Pasha told me that six battalions of infantry have also been dispatched from Constantinople to Salonica, to march thence to Pristina, where the Porte is bent, it seems, upon concentrating a large force.

A general order from the Serraskier, relative to the recent desertions, was published and read last week at the head of every battalion in this province. It informs the troops that the Sultan had heard with deep concern that some of their comrades have attempted to desert; warns them against the efforts which are made to induce them to quit their colours; and after praising their glorious services in the late war, expresses the hope that they will continue to give proofs of patriotism, devotion, and valour in the present critical situation of the country.

Ali Saïd Pasha will leave this for Volo to-morrow, to inspect six more battalions of infantry which are expected there from Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Volo, October 17, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to report to you that on the 11th instant some troops arrived here from Constantinople. They were brought to Volo in the Turkish frigate "Schanieh" (Captain Ali Bey; complement 500; guns 16), and in the transport ship "Medjidieh" (Captain Osman Bey; complement 150; guns 8).

The force consists of six battalions of infantry (4,000 men), a squadron of cavalry (100 men), and a battery of artillery (six field Krupp pieces), with some 700 or 800 cases of ammunition.

These troops, commanded by Major-General Emin Pasha, seem to conduct themselves with all propriety; they are quiet, sober, and inoffensive, and in their general appearance and condition they are comparatively well clothed, strong, and healthy. The half of this force has already been dispatched to Carditza, and the rest, I am told, is to follow as soon as the necessary conveyances are available.

The Commander-in-chief, Ali Saïd Pasha, came here on the 10th instant, but left Volo on his return to Larissa, shortly after inspecting the newly-arrived troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY G. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 158.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, October 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that I have received a letter from M. Knapitsch, Austrian Consul-General and Acting British Vice-Consul at Monastir, who informs me that a female slave has come under the British flag at Monastir to escape from being sold, and I am also informed by him that independent of the political rights she claims against being sold, "elle peut faire valoir des prétentions légitimes pour ne pas être vendue."

I have replied to M. Knapitsch that he can officially refuse to deliver up this woman until I can communicate and receive your Excellency's instructions in this matter, and I pray your Excellency will instruct me as soon as convenient. Monastir is under the Vali of Salonica.

I must, however, inform your Excellency what I have not learnt from M. Knapitsch, but from other sources, viz., that Monastir and its district is in a fearful state of anarchy. The Mutessarif has fled from that town and is here, because the door of his konak was besmeared with filth, and an insulting placard put up, from which a bulbul hung, and on the placard was written in Turkish that he would be shot.

About 5,000 Wallachian and Greek insurgents (perhaps more) are located around Monastir, on the mountains, who levy contributions on the villages and kill all the Bashi-Bazouks who fall into their hands. They began by swearing they would revenge themselves on the Bashi-Bazouk Gheghas for the pillage of the Christian villages last year, and on the Turks, who sent them to do so; and now they fear to return to their homes, and are compelled to levy contributions of bread, provisions, &c., on all the villages indiscriminately or starve. About 100 Christian families have come into the town of Monastir to escape from their requisitions, abandoning their houses and property.

The high road between Monastir and Vodena has been abandoned as totally unsafe, and a company of merchants are paying an armed escort to keep open a shorter road which leads from Monastir to Gratchko, a station on the railway, for once arrived on the railway all danger is over.

The passage of troops through this city is continual, principally going up by rail, but a regiment of infantry and cavalry has been sent on foot and on horseback to Serres.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

P.S.—I have omitted to say that the late master of the slave is a Colonel of artillery.

Ghazi Osman Pasha has not come here, and now we are told that it is a Ferik Osman Pasha who is expected to arrive.

E. B. B. B.

Inclosure 5 in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, October 19, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of M. Kypriotis' despatch of the 7th instant, and of his letter marked Confidential, dated 14th instant, relating to the state of public security in Epirus.

I have also the honour to subjoin a list of captures by brigands within the last few days, as reported by M. Kypriotis on the 14th instant:—

1. A native of Theodoriana (Tzumeriko).
2. A native of Kastanéa (Aspropotamos).
3. A Turk, native of Janina, for whose release 500 Turkish pounds is demanded.
4. Four natives of Premeti (students at Janina), two of whom were subsequently released on account of their being poor, but the other two are still kept prisoners, and 1,000 Turkish pounds are demanded for one and 600 Turkish pounds for the other.

To the above list I must add the murder by brigands of a Christian at Conitza.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 6 in No. 158.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

Sir,

Janina, October 7, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that last week the brigands at Zagori addressed a letter to the inhabitants of the two villages Stolon and Greveriti, demanding 200 Turkish pounds from each of the above villages, and failing to do so, the brigands threatened to set fire to their villages. All the wealthy inhabitants have, in consequence, quitted their villages, and taken refuge some in Janina and some in the more secure villages of Zagori. On Saturday last, in the khan called Kutziki, situated a few yards outside Janina, the two servants of the khan, who happened to be the only inmates that night, were found murdered. The hands of one of the servants were covered with wounds, which appear to have been inflicted while he was attempting to protect the money-box, and which was found lying beside him. The other servant was found lying in his mattress in a pool of blood. The khan stands at the foot of the hill where the troops are encamped.

I have, &c.

(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 7 in No. 158.

M. Kypriotis to Vice-Consul Blakeney.

(Translation.)

(Confidential.)

Sir,

Janina, October 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to acquaint you that the Mudir of Zagori, an Albanian named Moukarém, had forwarded to the authorities at Janina a report on the misconduct of the troops which patrol in that locality. On receipt of the above report, the authorities invited him to Janina, where he was brought before the Military Tribunal, and was accused of calumniating the Imperial troops, and of being an enemy of the Imperial Government. Anarchy is spreading. Every Ottoman becomes a Sultan in his district; even the wandering Turkish gipsies commit acts of depreda-

tion on the roads, and people wonder how Government does not put a stop to this evil when the country is full of regular troops of all arms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) B. KYPRIOTIS.

Inclosure 8 in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, October 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency the copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Willshire, of Dédéagatch, containing a more particular account of the circumstances under which two or three Christians were killed of late in that part of the country by Mussulmans.

From Mr. Willshire's statement it appears that the scene of the occurrences in question is close to the lines held by the Rhodope insurgents, and in a district not yet evacuated by the Russians; the most northerly point at present occupied by the Turks in that direction being Bidigli, on the railway. There is nothing, therefore, to show that these acts of violence have any connection with the Turkish reoccupation of the country, or that they differ in character from the reciprocal deeds of bloodshed which have occurred from time to time between Christians and Mussulmans all along the Rhodope border since the first outbreak of the insurrection.

Accounts have been received here to-day of a more serious conflict, though one distinctly of the kind referred to, which has since taken place in the same part of the country.

On the 25th instant, it is stated, a body of Pomak insurgents made a descent from the hills upon the Bulgarian villages of Demir Oren and Yan Oren, one hour and a-half from Sofoulou, which is near the railway south of Demotica. As the inhabitants of those villages were armed they succeeded in keeping off the assailants until the arrival of a detachment of Russian troops from Sofoulou.

Meanwhile, the Mussulmans, too, had received reinforcements, and an engagement ensued, lasting three hours, and involving a loss on both sides of twenty-five to thirty men. The Russians in the end obtained the advantage, and drove the Pomaks back into their mountain fastnesses. The village of Demir Oren took fire during the conflict and was entirely destroyed, the inhabitants taking refuge in the neighbouring forests. The foregoing statement is contained in a letter from an inhabitant of the last-named village.

There is probably some foundation for the facts related, but they have not, so far as I am aware, given a new impulse to the exodus. That movement ceased the day before yesterday, when most of the emigrants still here were induced, at the instance of the Delegates who had accompanied Mazhar Pasha, to return to their homes.

A gentleman who came here a day or two ago from Lulé-Bourgas, and whose views certainly cannot have been biassed by his nationality or personal interests, speaks in the most indignant terms of the unscrupulous conduct of the Russian authorities of that district towards the Christian inhabitants. He states it to be a notorious fact that, as in the instance of Malgara, the abortive attempt to get up an insurrectionary movement at Lulé-Bourgas (as reported in my despatch to your Excellency of the 5th instant) was encouraged by those authorities, and, what is more, that it was initiated by them, the men employed in the attempt being paid for their services.

The same gentleman also expresses his disgust at the "infamous" machinations through which, by exciting their fears on the one hand and their cupidity on the other, the ignorant Bulgarian and Greek villagers were induced to abandon their homes and a great part of their moveable property.

Different travellers who have arrived here during the last few days by rail from Constantinople report having seen burning villages on this side of the Russian lines. Amongst others, Mandra, a place formerly inhabited by Circassians, and another village close by, both situated near Baba-Eski, are specifically mentioned as having been seen in flames on the evening of the 24th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 9 in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Willshire to Acting Consul Calvert.

Sir, *Dédéagatch, October 24, 1878.*

I BEG to inform you that about eight or ten days ago some disturbances took place at a village called Buyuk-Dervend, about seven hours' distance from this place, and the Turkish inhabitants of the place rose against the Bulgarians, ill-treated them, and, it was reported, had murdered eight or ten of them; but this number appears to have been much exaggerated, only two or three persons having lost their lives.

Measures were immediately taken by the Turkish authorities to arrest the guilty parties, and ten or twelve Turks were brought here on the 22nd instant and sent to prison at Ferré. Many Bulgarians, men, women, and children, from the same village, came here the same day, and left also for Ferré, emigrating to New Bulgaria.

The emigration of the Bulgarian population is spreading here, and if measures be not taken to stop it, the Christian villages in this district will be entirely abandoned. Mazhar Pasha arrived here last night by train from Ferré, and it is to be hoped he will do his best to put an end to the panic which has seized on the Bulgarians in these parts, and induce them not to abandon their homes. It is also to be hoped that the energetic measures taken by the officers of the Turkish troops to punish offenders will at last convince the Bulgarians that they are to be properly protected.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LEONARD WM. WILLSHIRE.

Inclosure 10 in No. 158.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, October 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Major-General Lipinsky, whose duties as Chief of the Staff of the 9th Army Corps have called him to Philippopolis, has been succeeded in the Governorship of Adrianople by Major-General Molostvoff.

This change has been published by a printed order, of which I beg leave to inclose the Bulgarian, Greek, and Turkish original, together with an English translation.

Your Excellency will observe that the new Governor of Adrianople is placed under the orders of Lieutenant-General Stolbin, who commands the 9th Army Corps, and who, under the style of "Governor-General of Philippopolis," has replaced the Imperial Commissioner of Bulgaria as General Administrator of the occupied provinces to the south of the Balkans. The Governor-General, again, is placed under the supreme control of the Commander-in-chief here. These arrangements are understood to have been made at the urgent instance of General Todleben, between whom and Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff differences had arisen on the subject of administrative supremacy.

The southern limits of the Province of Adrianople, as defined by the order just published, nearly correspond with the new strategic line indicated in my despatch of the 2nd instant (upon private information) as having been resolved upon. Only, as regards Dédéagatch, it is evident that my informant fell into a mistake, as I surmised in my despatch of the following day. In all probability, as then suggested, the obscure village of Ishtit (which there was no other apparent reason for noticing) is to be the furthest southern point of occupation, and the limit of "the pays of the vaza of Demotica" now officially mentioned.

The omission of Kirk-Kilisse and Lulé-Bourgas from among the districts composing the new province arises from the configuration of the "Bulgaria" of the Treaty of San Stefano, which has been religiously adhered to from first to last for administrative purposes. These districts, therefore, remain under the jurisdiction of Silimia, although, in consequence of the restricted area of Russian occupation, the Cazas of Vize and Midia, beyond them, will now be isolated from the rest of the province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 11 in No. 158.

Order by the Military Governor of Adrianople.

(Translation.)

AS it is necessary for me to leave Adrianople, his Excellency the Commander-in-chief has been pleased to appoint in my place Major-General Molostvoff, who will enter on his duties as Governor of Adrianople on the 10th/26th of the present month of October.

Notice is at the same time hereby given that the Governorship of Adrianople will comprise the following districts, which are occupied by our troops: the nahié of Tchenké, together with a part of the Caza of Demotica; and the Cazas of Ouzoum-Koupry, Viza, and Midia. The Province of Adrianople will be subject to the orders of Lieutenant-General Stalibin, who has been appointed Governor-General of Philippopolis.

Adrianople, October 13/25, 1878.

(Signed) LIPINSKI, *Major-General, Military Governor.*

Inclosure 12 in No. 158.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, October 26, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the newly-raised Bulgarian troops which arrived here on the 16th instant have been sent to Ahiolo, where they are quartered in the Greek monastery and on six of the best houses in the town, as many as sixty being billeted on the house of M. Yako Œconomos. The Greeks of Ahiolo are at a loss to understand why they should be forced to receive Bulgarian soldiers, who, they contend, cannot be considered as forming part of the army of occupation.

At the village of Enirkeui, in the Caza of Ahiolo, two Turks, Abdullah Oghlou Ahmet and Kaupé Oghlou Ismail, have been murdered within the last week by Bulgarians.

In the Caza of Misevria the Turkish inhabitants of the village of Oramankeui (about forty Bulgarian and eight Mussulman houses) had their houses broken into a few days ago and completely stripped, even their stores of grain being carried off in carts by the Bulgarian plunderers, who also fired a quantity of hay belonging to one of the Turks, and which he was to have delivered that evening to a purchaser.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

No. 159.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 1362.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 1, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a Report addressed to Sir Geoffrey Hornby by Commander Day, of Her Majesty's ship "Condor," on his return from Bourgas, and which I forward, in order that it should reach your Lordship as soon as possible.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 159.

Commander Day to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that, in obedience to telegram received from you on the 24th instant, I left the Bosphorus next day, arriving at Bourgas on the 26th.

2. I immediately communicated with our Consul, Mr. Brophy, and sent to inform the General commanding the troops that I would call on him that afternoon; however, he sent to say he could not receive me that day. Next day I called on him, and he sent his Aide-de-camp to return the visit. There are no Turkish authorities here whatever, and the officer of the port who boarded the ship on arriving there was a Russian.

3. There was a large Russian steamer at anchor on my arrival; she brought stores for the Government, and left with a few sick that evening. On the day of my arrival (26th) a large transport arrived with about 2,000 men, all young soldiers, and a wretched-looking lot; they had no arms, and only the clothes they had on; each man carried a sheepskin overcoat. The steamer left the next day with a few sick. The men were sent into the interior the day after landing. On the 27th another transport arrived with about 1,500 men; they were also without arms, and all had a sheepskin coat as well as their regular overcoat. I mention this as it shows that the men have come prepared for cold weather. On the 30th a steamer arrived laden with cattle.

4. The Russians have been landing large quantities of stores and provisions of all kinds at Bourgas. I could see no ammunition nor any guns landed, and the only guns I could see anywhere in or about the place was one battery of artillery of eight guns, placed on a cliff to left of town. They have three paddle tugs, very much like the "Hellespont;" they are manned and officered from the navy, and fly the man-of-war flag and pendant. They have also several steam launches and pinnaces (seven or eight), a good number of large iron barges, which are used for landing troops or heavy weights, also a number of wooden barges for landing stores. On the wharf at Bourgas there were a great number of bales of sheepskin clothing, a good deal of fodder for horses, as well as a lot of biscuits they said were for horses. They had repaired the pier, and had placed a large derrick at the end for hoisting heavy weights. There were a great number of officers and men of the navy employed on the wharves loading and unloading lighters, &c.

5. At Chingani Scala, on the opposite or south side of the bay, they are working hard building wharves. Two are complete and well built; they are made of square caissons of wood, which are floated into position and then filled with stones to sink them; there is about two fathoms water at the end; they are also making here a slip for hauling up heavy boats on, and there is a great deal of building material (wood) on the beach. There were four large steamers lying there; what they are waiting for I could not ascertain, but was told by a Russian officer that they were waiting to to take away troops. The only things I saw put on board were a lot of old limbers and ammunition waggons, and a few Krupp guns that had been taken from the Turks; they have also made a bridge of boats over a place marked "Ferry" in the Admiralty chart, No. 2,399, and have also made a road from Chingani Scala towards Bourgas, making good wooden bridges where necessary to cross the waters leading into the lagoons. I have marked this road and the bridges, and also the wharves at Chingani Scala and on the accompanying tracing, which may assist at understanding the various positions.

6. The master of an English schooner, who has been here over a month, informed me that he landed 200 tons of coal for the Russians at Chingani Scala, and that they wanted a good deal more, and were making arrangements at Constantinople for more to be sent; he had seen a great quantity of stores landed, and no guns; he had seen some old condemned stores sent away, as well as some invalided soldiers; he had had working parties on board his ship, and said they were in a miserable state and half starved, and could do very little work; several steamers had been there during his stay with Government stores, as many as five or six at a time being at anchor off Chingani Scala.

7. I could see no batteries, or any in course of construction, but judging from all I saw, and from the way in which the wharves are being built, as well as the large quantity of stores, &c., I am of opinion that the Russians have no intention of leaving

this neighbourhood for the present, and that they intend making this place their depôt for supplies, &c., as well as for sending away their sick and receiving recruits. I was informed by Mr. Brophy that as a rule the country was quiet, but that the usual amount of robberies that naturally would take place under the circumstances were being committed, but that no unwonted cruelties were being perpetrated. A police force, partly of Russians and partly of Bulgarian natives, keep order in the town under the command of Russian officers; there is a Bulgarian Legion, as it is called, being raised under Russian officers, but as to the numbers, or under what system or regulation, I could not ascertain on reliable authority.

8. I should think that in and around the immediate neighbourhood of Bourgas there were some 3,000 or 4,000 men; there are a good number of baggage horses and waggons, but no cavalry that I could see. They have some eight or ten hospital marquees erected on the cliff to the left of the town, containing some fifteen to twenty beds each, but there seems to be but few sick. At Chingani Scala there is an encampment of some 1,500 or 2,000 men, with some baggage waggons and horses, and I was told by the General commanding, as an excuse for not allowing a party to go to Karabounar on a shooting expedition, that there were troops scattered all about the country, and that we might be interfered with.

9. As I understood, the telegram received cancelled to a certain extent my sailing orders from Commander-in-chief of 18th October, ordering me to survey the port of Bourgas; no soundings were taken, but judging from the position of the ship and what I saw of the place, I should say the Admiralty chart was pretty correct, with the exception of the lower part of Poros Bay, where I think the water is much less than shown on chart, as I got on shore in steam cutter where three fathoms is marked; the position is shown on tracing.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD DAY.

No. 160.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 75.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, October 26, 1878.*

I FEAR, from the latter part of your Lordship's despatch No. 59 of the 17th instant, that I may, from want of clearness, have appeared in my despatches relating to the Imperial Ottoman Bank to pass an opinion on the rights of that establishment as against the Ottoman authorities.

Such was far from my intention. As an Ottoman institution it is, I believe, subject to Ottoman laws. My object was simply to guard the rights of the Sultan in Eastern Roumelia against the infringement of rights enjoyed by the Ottoman Bank under the stipulations of a Firman granted previous to the late war. Had the Porte intended to establish in Eastern Roumelia a rival institution I should have said nothing; but it was clearly the contention of the Russian Commissioner—to use a common phrase—that the Firman of the Sultan did not run in Eastern Roumelia, and my efforts were directed to prevent an admission which, however indirectly made, would have created a precedent subversive of the Sultan's rights and authority.

In doing so I bore in mind a conversation between Prince Dondoukoff and the Agent of the Ottoman Bank at this place, as reported in a letter I had read, dated the 24th September, and copy of which your Lordship is good enough to send me in your despatch No. 54 of the 17th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 161.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 76.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Philippopolis, October 29, 1878.*

ON Sunday the Bulgarian Metropolitan Panaretos, whose name is known to your Lordship, called on me and Lord Donoughmore.

His Eminence began his conversation by expressing himself glad to see us and the European Commission, as we should be able to satisfy ourselves that the only wish

of the Bulgarians was to be united to their brethren. They had learnt with dismay the decision of the Congress of Berlin to replace the province under the authority of the Porte. For centuries they had been groaning under the misgovernment of the Sultan. They had believed themselves rid of it, and the Congress of Berlin had again subjected them to this hateful domination.

I told his Eminence that he had entirely misconceived the spirit and letter of the Treaty. In the first place, the Treaty had decided that the Governor-General was to be a Christian, and named with the assent of the Powers.

The Metropolitan replied that this made no difference. He was to be the Governor-General of the Sultan, and no one could act fairly or govern justly whose authority emanated from such a source. The Governor-General would come with Bashi-Bazouks, Circassians, and others. It was hopeless to expect good government from the Turks. They were the enemies of civilization and his race. The Bulgarians felt this everywhere—in Bulgaria and Macedonia. It was no good hoping that any scheme elaborated by the Commission would work. They had seen edicts, including the Hatti-Humayoun, which had fallen into abeyance as soon as they were written, and this would be the fate of any new form of Government which did not give to his race unity and independence.

I begged his Eminence to let me explain to him the difference between the Treaty of 1856 and that of 1878.

In the former Treaty the Hatti-Humayoun was mentioned as an act of sovereign grace, emanating from the Sultan, and it had in no respect been laid down as a condition of the support given to the Sultan's authority by Europe. The Treaty of 1878 had taken up a very different line, for it had prescribed the limits of the Sultan's authority, and had appointed a Commission to decide on the system of administrative autonomy best calculated to secure the happiness of the population. No Bashi-Bazouks or Circassians were to be admitted into the country. Turkish regular troops were only to be admitted on certain conditions; the Commission was to regulate the administrative, judicial, and financial régime, so as to secure for the people the essentials of welfare, viz., freedom and justice. Order was to be preserved by a gendarmerie and militia, recruited and officered according to the religions of their districts. In the Treaty of 1856 no securities were given for the fulfilment of the Hatti-Humayoun. In 1878 Europe not only sanctioned but created those securities. In the mind of Her Majesty's Government those securities would consist in a form of Government giving to the people the rights enjoyed by the Constitutional States of Europe. Those institutions would be elaborated by the Commission. The people themselves would have to work them, and this was a very different state of things from the Hatti-Humayoun, which was an emanation of the Sultan's will, vaguely alluded to in the Treaty, and left to be executed entirely under his authority. I said that if his Eminence would read the Protocols of the Conference of Constantinople and the Protocols of Berlin he would see how determined were Her Majesty's Government, and the other Powers of Europe, to secure a good form of Government for the Christian races of Turkey. It was not for me to discuss proposals tending to set aside the Treaty of Berlin, but to strive with my colleagues to carry out the intentions of that Treaty in a form which, while preserving the just rights of the Sultan, would secure the fullest immunities to the people.

I therefore hoped his Eminence would not act on foregone conclusions, but would give to us the benefit of his advice, and the assistance of his personal influence and sacred character, so that the institutions to be proposed should be really adapted to the requirements of the country.

His bearing was all through our conversation very friendly and courteous. I returned his Eminence's visit yesterday, but our conversation turned on certain points of ecclesiastical detail, on which I desired some information.

I was glad of the opportunity of stating, as broadly as possible, to an influential and highly-placed Bulgarian, what I believe to be the views of Her Majesty's Government. The Russians are endeavouring to disseminate everywhere the belief that the Commission intends to restore the ancient order of things, and to re-establish the old system of the Turkish vilayet. A petition has been prepared to be presented to the Commission, asking that the existing state of things may be maintained.

I beg to inclose a copy of this document, the composition of which is attributed to the pen of Prince Tzeretelew.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 161.

Pétition.

Excellence,

NOUS, habitants de la Roumélie Orientale, prenons la liberté de soumettre aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances nos justes vœux, dans le ferme espoir que l'Europe éclairée, s'inspirant des intérêts de l'humanité et de la civilisation, voudra bien les prendre en considération.

Pleinement satisfaits de l'organisation dont nous jouissons depuis quelques mois, et n'ayant nul sujet de nous plaindre de la race prédominante, nous ne saurions envisager sans éprouver les plus vives inquiétudes, tout changement susceptible de favoriser le retour d'un régime qui a attiré sur ce malheureux pays tant de souffrances inouïes.

Nous profitons donc de la présence de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli pour la conjurer, au nom de la justice, de l'humanité, et de la civilisation, de laisser intacts et de consacrer les institutions actuelles, qui seules peuvent assurer l'ordre et la tranquillité existants, qui seules peuvent aussi dissiper toutes nos appréhensions pour l'avenir.

Dans la pleine confiance que vous daignerez prêter à la présente votre attention bienveillante, nous avons, &c.

No. 162.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 77.) [B.B.]

Philippopolis, October 26, 1878.

My Lord,

BEFORE the departure of the Metropolitan Panarétos, the Greek Metropolitan arrived to see us.

His conversation was very different from that of his Bulgarian brother. It was anti-Russian to the greatest possible extent. His anxiety was fixed on the future ecclesiastical organization of the province.

I told him how strong were the sympathies of Her Majesty's Government for the Greek race, and how desirous I should be to assist them in obtaining any legitimate wishes.

Our conversation was very general, and on his departure he promised to give me all the assistance in his power.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 163.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 78.) [B.B.]

Philippopolis, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY a deputation of Mussulmans called on me, entreating me to use some influence to alleviate their position. Their houses are being destroyed by the Russians; soldiers and Bulgarian zaptiehs enter their homes to violate their wives before their faces; and they themselves, whatever their position, are forced away to the *corvée*, which is inflicted on no one else.

Not having time myself to inspect the quarter where the houses are being destroyed, I requested Mr. Cartwright to go there this morning, and I beg to inclose his very clear Report on the subject.

A Turkish woman called on me to-day with a most painful story. Her husband had been murdered. She had been violated, and when she endeavoured to complain to the police she was beaten away. She told Mr. Simmons, our Interpreter, that she had been beaten by order of a tall man with a fair beard, who, from the description, would appear to be the Head of the Russian Police.

The stories daily and hourly reported are too appalling, and I intend to talk the matter over privately with some of my colleagues, and see if something can be done.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 163.

Memorandum.

BY Sir H. D. Wolff's desire, I this morning visited the Turkish parts of Philippopolis to ascertain the truth of the complaints brought to his notice by the Turkish deputation which called here yesterday. Mr. Calvert and Mr. Palgrave were with me, and we were accompanied by the Porter of the Vice-Consulate, a Mussulman, who himself is a sufferer from the destruction of property which is taking place.

We found that a good many houses had been pulled down for the sake of improvements, but a very much larger number have been, and are still, being demolished with no better excuse than the supply of timber and fuel for the houses occupied by the Russians.

As regards the improvements, it is remarkable that the houses removed are almost exclusively Turkish, the only compensation being 5 piastres a pic (or about 1 franc per 2 ft. 6 in.) for the ground upon which they stood, whereas for the two or three buildings which belonged to Bulgarians much larger sums have been given. The streets have been widened here and there, and a few big houses have been built. The only other improvement is the conversion of a Turkish graveyard into a public garden, in the centre of which is a large platform for the military band, erected by Turkish labour.

But a whole quarter of the town has been destroyed since the Russians came. At first it was the Bulgarians who burnt and pillaged the houses, but now the work is carried on by Russian soldiers. The case of Mr. Calvert's porter is a fair instance: the man was living with Mr. Calvert, his family having left the place; a few days ago their home was entered by Russian soldiers, who said they were acting under orders from the police; and the house is now in a pitiable state, the doors and ground floor have disappeared, and the house has been rendered uninhabitable by holes made in the upper floor and the roof. Up till yesterday the soldiers were at work, but, whether owing to the remonstrance of the owner, or to the fact that the house had been sufficiently spoilt already, there was no one at work to-day.

It must not be supposed that the houses are all old and badly built; this one, on the contrary, seemed to have been very respectable, and the wood-work was certainly in a good state of preservation. There was one other house in course of demolition which looked particularly new and cleanly; but the great majority of the buildings are so effectually pulled down that one cannot conjecture what they may have been originally.

Whatever they were they would surely be acceptable to the starving refugees who crowd round the Governor's konak.

(Signed) W. C. CARTWRIGHT.

Philippopolis, October 29, 1878.

No. 164.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 79.)

Philippopolis, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I CALLED yesterday on the Bulgarian Exarch with Lord Donoughmore.

It is unnecessary to report to your Lordship my language to His Holiness, which was very much in the same strain as my remarks to the Metropolitan Panarétos. His Holiness seems to me a man of remarkable intelligence. He was brought up in Europe, and was, I am told, engaged in commerce before embracing the ecclesiastical career.

His Holiness told me that he agreed in much of what I said, but thought the time had passed for an arrangement such as I proposed. The mind of the people was possessed with the idea of a great Bulgaria.

This, in his opinion, must come sooner or later, and if we did manage to arrive at some conclusion now, it could only be a temporary arrangement. He said that the Bulgarians did not wish to be annexed to Russia. They rather disliked the Russians than not, and their only hope is the restoration of their old nationality.

I asked him if this were the case, what would become of the Mussulmans, Greeks, and others?

He replied that being the minority they might become citizens of the New Bulgaria.

I inquired whether he thought there would be any chance for them amongst the majority, and I asked him if great outrages had not been perpetrated on the Mussulmans by the Bulgarians.

He acknowledged that this had been the case. But, he added, much as such events were to be regretted, they were the result of vengeance and the pent-up hatred of years; but that this could pass away when the Bulgarians obtained their wishes for an independent nationality.

I then asked His Holiness what line he intended to take.

He replied that in the proceedings of the Commission and in the political discussions about to commence, he should be perfectly neutral. He intended leaving Philippopolis in a few days, and his purpose was to elect for the Turkish nationality, to confine his ecclesiastical functions to Eastern Roumelia and the other Bulgarian churches in Turkey, and to live principally at Constantinople. With respect to the Principality of Bulgaria, he said that if the inhabitants liked to recognize him they might do so. If not, he should not insist on it.

This action on his part is skilful, and no doubt concerted with Russia.

To-day His Holiness called on me with the intention of speaking to me at length on the ecclesiastical question. But being interrupted by some official visits, I asked his leave to call on him on Thursday, and, therefore, must postpone writing on this subject till the next opportunity.

His Holiness assured me that it was the earnest endeavour of the leading Bulgarians, and of the priesthood in their sermons, to prevent the outrages now committed on Mussulmans.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 165.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, October 29, 1878.*

TO-DAY a deputation of Bulgarians called on me with the inclosed petition. I regret not to have more than one printed copy of the translation to add to it. The names of the deputation form Inclosure No. 3.

Before I read the petition M. Gueshoff, who was the principal spokesman, addressed me in English, practically giving me the contents of it.

I told him that, as far as I could gather from his remarks, the object of the petition was the reversal of the Treaty of Berlin. If this were the case, I must say at once that I was not competent to discuss such a question, nor was the Commission able to do so.

Our duty was to elaborate a scheme for the government of the province within the four corners of the Treaty. The terms of that instrument enabled us to give to the people of Eastern Roumelia ample security for their welfare, and I believe it to be the wishes of my colleagues to stretch their powers to the utmost in favour of the people. I therefore considered it would be far more practical on the part of gentlemen of influence in the country to give us advice and make suggestions which we could adopt, rather than to address us on subjects beyond our competency.

I repeated very much the arguments I have used on former occasions.

M. Gueshoff declared that they could not anticipate any possible good from the bases laid down at Berlin, and alluded to the cruelties committed by the Turks on the Bulgarians.

I replied that, without discussing the Treaty of Berlin, I considered the bases there established quite sufficient to enable us to endow the people of Eastern Roumelia with the institutions which in Europe had answered in securing the general welfare.

With regard to atrocities, I said that none could regret more than the Government and people of England the lamentable outrages that had been committed on the Bulgarians, and I expressed a hope to the deputation that they would make use of their influential position to stop the acts of vengeance now being perpetrated on the Mussulmans of the province.

They declared this to be their wish; but M. Gueshoff added that, in times of war, such acts had been committed even in the most civilized States.

I replied that I did not speak of times of war. At present the same outrages were being committed; and I added that, if the Bulgarians wished to secure the good-will of Europe, already disposed to give them every facility for progress, advancement, and civilization, they must put an end to acts incompatible with civilization.

The deputation went to my Austrian and French colleagues, and, I suppose, to the other Commissioners, except the Turks.

The language held to them by M. de Kallay and Baron de Ring was, I understand, very much to the same effect as mine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 165.

Mémoire adressé à la Commission Européenne pour l'Organisation de la Roumélie Orientale par la Population de la Bulgarie du Sud.

Excellence,

LES infortunés Bulgares de la province dite la "Roumélie Orientale," séparés par le Congrès de Berlin si improprement et contre nature, de leurs compatriotes de la Bulgarie du nord et de la Macédoine, s'adressent, forts de leurs droits imprescriptibles, aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances pour leur signaler les graves inconvénients, les défauts, et les difficultés d'une situation intolérable. Cette démarche nous est suscitée par le ferme espoir que l'Europe éclairée, s'inspirant des intérêts de l'humanité et de la civilisation, voudra bien prendre en sérieuse considération nos justes griefs, et nous fournir des remèdes propres à conjurer les maux qui menacent notre existence nationale autant que la stabilité de la paix en Orient.

Au moment où le peuple Bulgare s'attendait à voir enfin sanctionner et garantir ses droits d'hommes, ses droits nationaux, et sa liberté conquise au prix de si grands sacrifices, les décisions de l'Aréopage Européen vinrent, comme autant de flèches, frapper au cœur toute la nation. Unis depuis cinq siècles dans tous les malheurs et dans toutes les souffrances, affranchis par des efforts communs, les Bulgares furent terrifiés en apprenant le verdict qui prononce leur morcellement, verdict fatal à nous, Bulgares du sud tout particulièrement, qui nous voyons, soudain, détachés du corps national pour être enchaînés dans le cercle de fer des garnisons Turques—sort cruel qui nous fut épargné, même dans les époques les plus sombres de notre esclavage.

Les garnisons Turques, ces épouvantails plantés au cœur de la Bulgarie, ne seront-elles pas une source intarissable de troubles et de conflits dégénérant en luttes sanglantes?

Morcelés, et voyant tous leurs liens historiques et économiques, leurs liens de famille même défaits; rendus faibles et impuissants au dedans, livrés à l'action des ennemis au dehors; soumis à de différents régimes, les Bulgares, outre qu'ils seraient chargé du lourd fardeau d'entretenir une triple administration, verraient encore leur homogénéité nationale gravement compromise par l'introduction de différences de coutumes, de mœurs, de traditions, et de caractères. Un tel état de choses non-seulement ne contient aucun germe de développement national et de progrès pacifique, mais il va encore à l'encontre du but que l'Europe, voulant pacifier l'Orient, s'était proposé.

En effet, dans ce siècle où tous les efforts des peuples tendent à la fusion des éléments homogènes, à l'unité nationale; à une époque où l'Europe avoue et cherche à réparer les fautes commises dans le passé à l'égard de certaines nationalités: est-il admissible que les Bulgares, que l'oppression la plus inouïe n'a pas réussi à entamer dans leur unité, se résignerient au morcellement auquel on les a condamnés au moment même où l'on se proposait d'améliorer leur sort? Injustice plus criante fut-elle jamais infligée à un peuple? Et peut-il y avoir des hommes assez peu prévoyants pour ne pas s'apercevoir que tout ce qui reste de vie dans ces membres détachés tendra à se réunir au corps mutilé?

Les Bulgares méridionaux, dont le sentiment national est le plus développé,

peuvent-ils rester calmes devant une situation aussi pleine d'injustice et de périls? Nos appréhensions ne sont-elles pas justifiées par le nom de "Roumélie Orientale" même, imposé si improprement à notre pays? Et lorsque toutes les autres nationalités, Turque, Grecque, Israélite, et Arménienne réunies, ne constituent qu'un huitième de la population, nous, Bulgares, qui en formons les sept-huitièmes, qui sommes pour ainsi dire les seuls propriétaires du sol, qui tenons dans nos mains toutes les forces productives du pays: pouvons-nous concevoir que cette dénomination factice ait d'autre but en vue que l'étouffement de notre vie nationale sous la prédominance artificielle d'éléments étrangers et hostiles? Malgré les calomnieux rapports de certains Consuls et correspondants à l'imagination fertile, nous n'entendons nullement méconnaître les droits de tous concitoyens sans distinction de religion et de nationalité, mais nous ne pouvons ne pas insister avec toute énergie sur la reconnaissance des droits de l'écrasante majorité, des droits en rapport avec la somme de nos devoirs. Et si ce principe n'était pas rigoureusement respecté, nous serions loin de trouver dans l'autonomie administrative promise—pour le bien des Bulgares—une garantie quelconque: nous n'y trouverions que deux mots d'une sonorité trompeuse.

Au fait, les stipulations du Traité de Berlin relativement à l'organisation de notre pays, que nous offrent-elles? Un Gouverneur-Général, Chrétien, nommé par le Sultan; les officiers de la milice et de la Gendarmerie, nommés par le Sultan; les fonctionnaires de l'administration, nommés par le Sultan; le pouvoir législatif, exercé probablement aussi par le Sultan. N'est-ce pas, au fond, l'ancien régime avec le mot d'autonomie seulement en plus?

Le droit illimité du Sultan pour la nomination du Gouverneur-Général, des officiers, des administrateurs, et des Présidents des Cours d'Appel, lui donne la faculté de prendre pour ces importantes fonctions des hommes en dehors de la province, des hommes, qui, ne connaissant ni la langue, ni les mœurs, ni les besoins du pays, et qui n'ayant rien de commun avec lui, se soucieront fort peu de son bonheur. Du choix des fonctionnaires ce n'est, à coup sûr, pas leur capacité qui en décidera, mais bien le degré de leur servilité, comme cela s'est fait de tout temps en Turquie; on choisira des hommes prêts à servir d'instruments aveugles à tous les efforts qui seront faits pour paralyser la marche régulière de l'administration, pour détruire le peu de bien que la province pourrait tirer de ses nouvelles institutions.

L'objection que le Gouverneur-Général doit être nommé "avec l'assentiment des Grandes Puissances" est de bien peu de valeur, car en présence d'une politique d'intérêts, en présence de l'antagonisme manifeste et des ambitions personnelles qui s'agitent au sein du concert Européen et qui le rendent impuissant devant les habiletés de la Sublime Porte, celle-ci continuera à se servir de l'Europe pour le plus grand profit de ses propres vues.

Le Gouverneur-Général sera investi du droit de proposer au Sultan les candidats pour les fonctions de Mutessarif, de Président et Conseiller de la Cour d'Appel, du droit de nommer aux charges inférieures dans la milice et dans la gendarmerie, aux fonctions de Juge dans les Tribunaux civils et criminels, enfin du pouvoir exorbitant d'appeler, en cas de troubles, les troupes Ottomanes. Où est la garantie que le Gouverneur, surtout s'il est étranger au pays, exercera consciencieusement ses pouvoirs étendus et ses devoirs multiples; qu'il ne cédera pas sous la pression de la Sublime Porte; qu'il n'abusera pas de son autorité au détriment de la population? . . . .

Où est le gage que les Administrateurs, Juges, et Officiers seront pris parmi les indigènes capables et honnêtes jouissant de la confiance publique? Quelles dispositions, quelles mesures seront de nature assez énergique pour dissiper les appréhensions de la population qui se voit déjà livrée à toutes les violences et à toutes les cruautés des troupes Ottomanes appelées dans le pays sous des prétextes futiles, par un accès de mauvaise humeur, par des troubles provoqués à dessein? La milice locale d'un nombre insuffisant dans la proportion de 1 pour cent de la population mâle, peut-elle, dans sa constitution hétérogène, avec des officiers Turcs, selon toute prévision, assurer la tranquillité à l'intérieur, défendre le pays contre les exploits isolés des ennemis du dehors et les incursions des Bachi-Bozouks du Rhodope? D'ailleurs, les habitants comment pourraient-ils compter sur une force publique, laquelle n'aura elle-même nulle confiance dans ces officiers, qui ont fait preuve de tant de fanatisme à Boyadjik, Batak, Péroushtitza, Eski-Zaghra, et ailleurs?

La langue Turque, si elle était adoptée comme officielle, fournirait un prétexte assez sérieux pour tenir les Bulgares les plus capables éloignés des fonctions publiques; elle ouvrirait la porte toute large à des individus qui n'ont, en dehors d'une certaine connaissance de la langue Turque, aucun des qualités requises pour l'administration et

la magistrature. Avec un personnel composé de la sorte, le retour du passé serait inévitable, et alors le pays, stupéfait, se verrait de nouveau poussé vers une lutte à mort contre ce même arbitraire, et ces mêmes méfaits qui ont été la cause des derniers événements.

Ces angoisses et ces sombres prévisions ne sont nullement le produit d'imaginations surexcitées; elles sont le produit de longs siècles de douloureuse expérience. Aussi, ne pouvons nous être taxés de pessimisme ni d'obstination si, jugeant d'après le passé, nous nous refusons à croire que l'autonomie administrative, quelle que soit d'ailleurs l'application des stipulations du Traité de Berlin, puisse offrir une garantie quelconque de la durée de la paix en Orient, de notre développement pacifique, voire même de notre existence.

Avec une autonomie dans les susdites conditions, notre pays continuerait à subir les influences pernicieuses de Stamboul, car toutes les fluctuations politiques de cette capitale profondément troublée, où lois et Ministres, Ordonnances et Traités changent à chaque instant, auraient leur contre-coup chez nous et nuiraient au bien-être de la province. Il est inutile de constater cette vérité que les plus solennelles promesses de réformes de la Sublime Porte ne sont, hélas! pas restées lettre morte en ce qu'elles ont attiré sur ses sujets les plus grands malheurs; c'est depuis la promulgation du Hatt-Houmayoun, dont la "haute valeur" a été proclamée par l'Europe, que l'arbitraire, l'oppression, et les violences atteignirent à un degré jusqu'alors inconnu, et c'est à l'ombre de la constitution tant prônée que se produisirent les plus épouvantables scènes de carnage.

Le peuple Bulgare est las de promesses stériles et fallacieuses; et sa lassitude n'est-elle pas justifiée par des faits tout récents? Ainsi, après tant d'indices qui nous promettaient une existence libre et indépendante, nous, Bulgares méridionaux, nous en sommes aujourd'hui à ne voir apparaître, sous les mots pompeux de "province autonome," qu'un vilayet ordinaire, à la manière Turque, avec le nom de la province et la religion du Gouverneur seulement de changés.

Mais pour voir enfin luire des jours meilleurs, il faut à l'infortunée population de la Bulgarie méridionale autre chose que des changements de nom et de personnel administratif. Le remplacement d'un Akif ou d'un Djemil Pacha par quelque Alexandre ou Odian ne peut en rien améliorer notre sort; il ne peut que le rendre plus triste; car presque partout où des fonctionnaires Chrétiens, créatures de la Sublime Porte ont été envoyés, la population eut l'insigne douleur de devoir regretter leurs prédécesseurs Musulmans.

Ce n'est pas le rétablissement des lois de vilayet, ce n'est pas l'application des propositions de la Conférence de Constantinople que les Bulgares attendent. Les décisions de cette assemblée, réunie en vue de prévenir une guerre terrible, pouvaient, quoique réduites à un minimum, être acceptées à cette époque. Mais après une lutte sanglante pendant laquelle le fanatisme Musulman, se révélant dans toute son horreur, s'est abattu sur l'infortuné peuple Bulgare, nous commettrions un suicide en acquiesçant aux arrangements de la Conférence. Pour que les plaies, qui ont si profondément ravagé notre pays, se ferment, pour que l'ordre et la tranquillité se rétablissent, des demi-mesures, des replâtrages n'y pourront rien; il faut recourir à un remède radical et satisfaire pleinement le juste vœu et la légitime aspiration que tout Bulgare porte dans son cœur.

La Consécration de l'Union du Peuple Bulgare sous un Gouvernement de son Choix.

La réalisation de cette légitime aspiration, loin d'être contraire à la paix générale, n'en servirait que mieux la consolidation. Il suffit de rappeler le passé, l'origine, et les causes qui nous poussaient aux mesures extrêmes pour conclure que si on laisse subsister ces causes, si on les aggrave même, par le partage de la Bulgarie, elles produiront infailliblement tôt ou tard des résultats plus funestes encore par suite d'événements qui ont créé une méfiance générale chez les Bulgares, surexcité les passions et les appétits de vengeance chez les Musulmans.

L'unité nationale du peuple Bulgare pourrait, par conséquent, seule faire réussir l'œuvre de pacification entreprise par l'Europe; elle supprimerait les difficultés présentes, elle préviendrait de nouvelles crises, et elle apporterait enfin aussi à une belles contrées tant éprouvées, les bienfaits de la civilization. Elle serait un bienfait non moins grand pour la Sublime Porte elle-même, car elle écarterait des sujets de troubles qui ont d'une manière si effrayante épuisé les forces de la Turquie.

Dans tous les cas et quoi qu'il arrive, les Bulgares du sud qui pleurent encore sur les décombres de plus de 300 villes et villages, des milliers de chères victimes massa-

écrées et étranglées sans pitié, qui regrettent encore des milliers de martyrs morts dans les prisons et dans l'exil ; ce peuple en deuil ne saurait—après avoir goûté les bienfaits de l'indépendance, après avoir gagné un point d'appui pour son action—bénévolement courber sa tête sous le joug exécrable d'un Gouvernement, auteur principal de tous ces crimes de lèse-humanité ; et à plus forte raison ne saurait-il subir qu'on l'écartèle comme un corps inanimé. C'est œuvre de haute justice et de charité Chrétienne que ferait l'Europe en sanctionnant l'union du peuple Bulgare sous un Gouvernement national, œuvre que le Traité de San Stéfano entendait accomplir, et que la Turquie avait elle-même reconnue. Au surplus, les Bulgares ne peuvent saisir au nom de quels droits, au nom de quels principes l'Europe Chrétienne voudrait de nouveau les assujettir à un Gouvernement Musulman qui, par sa conduite, a rompu tout lien avec eux, qui a perdu tout prestige aux yeux des sujets Mahométans eux-mêmes, et toute autorité devant l'anarchie qui prend le dessus dans la plupart des provinces restées sous la dépendance du Sultan.

Par les considérations qui précèdent, nous, Bulgares méridionaux, nous élevons donc notre voix au nom de la justice, de la civilisation, du Christianisme, et de l'humanité pour protester hautement contre toute atteinte à nos droits acquis, contre tout changement de l'ordre établi ; et pour proclamer que la Commission Internationale, si tant est qu'elle veuille nous faire quelque bien, elle ne saurait le faire qu'en laissant intacte et en plein exercice l'organisation présente, qui, uniformément introduite dans notre patrie, a fait ses preuves à la satisfaction générale.

Nous espérons que nos supplications trouveront un écho favorable dans les cœurs de l'Europe Chrétienne. Mais si nos voix, couvert par les rivalités d'intérêts, restaient les voix de ceux qui crient dans le désert, nous puiserions du moins au fond de notre conscience tranquille la consolation d'avoir, en temps opportun, rempli un devoir sacré, en déclinant toute responsabilité des conséquences désastreuses qui résulteraient fatalement du moindre essai de changer les institutions actuelles de notre pays.

Dans la pleine confiance que vous voudrez recommander la présente à l'attention bienveillante de votre Gouvernement, nous avons l'honneur d'être, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 165.

Names of Bulgarian Deputation.

J. Grouëff, Th. Kessiacoff, J. Ev. Guechoff, Dr. Stoiloff, } de Philippopoli.
D. Papazoff, de Kezanlik.
D. Naoumoff, d'Eski-Zaghra.
M. Savoff, de Tchirpan.
M. Popoff, G. Ivanoff, } de Haskeui.
C. Velicoff, de Pazardjik.
Dr. G. Mircovitch, Ch. Pavloff, } de Slivno.

No. 166.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 81.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, October 29, 1878.*

TO-DAY I received visits from General Stolépine, the Governor-General, and General Baron Hübsch, the Governor of the town. They were both very civil, the former inviting us to his house.

General Stolépine told me the object he had at heart was the means of relief for the refugees. It was too late in the year to think of bringing them home now, and he proposed to do what had been done at Varna, viz., to send them money to feed them where they were.

Not quite seeing where any remark might lead me, I contented myself with saying that I hoped something might be done for these unhappy people.

Later I learnt that the Governor had informed one of my colleagues of a proposal now being made by him at Constantinople through Prince Lobanoff for an exchange of properties between Mussulman refugees from Eastern Roumelia and Christian refugees from the Turkish provinces. The proposal is specious, but if carried out it would have the effect of clearing Eastern Roumelia entirely of the Mussulman element.

As I believe the Mussulmans of Roumelia to be almost entirely of Bulgarian descent, and, so to speak, children of the soil, a belief confirmed to-day by answers to questions I put to the Bulgarian deputation, the expulsion of the Mussulmans from their own country will be an example of religious persecution quite inconsistent with the doctrines of toleration inculcated by the Treaty of Berlin.

A far better plan would be to effect an exchange of properties between Mussulmans in the Principality of Bulgaria and Christians in Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 167.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 82.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, October 30, 1878.*

I HAVE had more than one conversation with the Turkish Commissioners on the subject of their proposals. These are now drawn up and have been given to me privately. I have the honour of inclosing a copy of this document.

The Turkish Government have adopted several of my suggestions. The Electoral Law alluded to in sub-section 1 of clause 7, is to be based on the three-cornered system. These Delegates are in consequence to represent the caza, and the Governor-General is to add one nominee for every two of the electoral Delegates. They have also adopted my suggestion as to the partial dissolutions.

There are to my mind, after a very cursory perusal, two defects in this scheme. The first is in Article 5, where the Directors are to be named on the proposal of the Ministers of the Porte. This seems to me to cut at the root of the principle of autonomy, and in the present state of public feeling in the province, I am sure such a proposal would have the most damaging effect.

The Russians would point at it as justifying the apprehensions existing in the province, and they would say, not without justice, that the action of the Christian Governor-General was to be nullified by a Council of eight, composed of Mussulmans sent from Constantinople.

I yesterday spoke very seriously on the subject to the Turkish Commissioners when they showed me the project. I could not disguise from them any more than from myself, the very perilous position of public affairs in Turkey, especially in this province. We were literally sitting on a powder magazine, and a proposal of this nature might be the spark to light it. I thought Turkey had some chance of success by boldly offering very comprehensive reforms. If she were not prepared to do so, she had better not propose anything herself, but leave the task to others, limiting herself to amendment and criticism.

Abro Effendi pointed out to me that the "avis conforme du Gouverneur-Général" was necessary to the appointment of these Directors.

This, however, would be no safeguard with a weak or pliant Governor-General.

He also told me that if we accepted this scheme for Eastern Roumelia, it would be taken as a model for the other provinces of Turkey.

I told him that we could not mix up the two things. If the institutions we designed for Roumelia were so good that the Porte would adopt them for her own provinces, well and good, but we could not disfigure the special work committed to us for an hypothetical benefit.

Abro Effendi observed that the present project was more liberal than that of the Lebanon, which had worked well. I replied that the Lebanon was not in proximity to Russia, nor was it bordered by independent States, peopled by the same race and living under a constitutional system.

The second defect I found is of a more general nature, viz., an absence of precision and detail. In private affairs I find that a doubtful point in an agreement is generally decided against oneself, and in an instrument so important as that on which we are engaged, it is desirable to leave as few loopholes as possible.

Unfortunately the Turkish Commissioners have brought with them neither of the two lawyers, Messrs. Turin and Parnis, who have been working on the question, but M. Aminble, a third Legal Counsel of the Porte, who is new to it. He rather supported my views in the discussion, and has taken my plan, which he had never seen, though

for a long time in possession of the Commissioners, to endeavour to make some additions and alterations in the Ottoman plan, which may make it more acceptable.

While writing I have received the "Maritza," a paper founded by Prince Dondoukoff, and the official organ of the Government. It contains, as your Lordship will see from the inclosed copies, an article in French destined for the Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 167.

Draft of Organic Law for Eastern Roumelia.

[See Inclosure in No. 155.]

Inclosure 2 in No. 167.

Extract from the "Maritza."

[Not printed.]

No. 168.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 84.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Philippopolis, October* 30, 1878.

I AM informed by Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert that the Greek, Armenian, and Jewish communities refuse to sign the petition addressed to the Commission, copy of which is inclosed in my despatch No. 76.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 169.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 85.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Philippopolis, October* 30, 1878.

TO-DAY we have been visited by deputations of the Greek and Jewish communities, and also by Mussulman peasants who have been driven from their homes.

The two first deputations merely came to welcome us, and had nothing remarkable to communicate. The Jewish deputation informed me in answer to my inquiries, that the Jewish refugees were gradually returning. They do not seem at present to be undergoing any ill-treatment.

I assured both the Greeks and the Jews of the desire of Her Majesty's Government to secure their happiness, their liberties, and rights.

It was too painful to hear the stories of the unfortunate Mussulmans, nor is it necessary that I should repeat them. They fear returning to their villages, where those who have returned have undergone cruelties and indignities, amongst the least of which was their beards being cut off, and some being hitted like horses by the Bulgarians. They prefer remaining here, and living, or rather starving, without shelter.

I recommended them to address themselves to Assim Pasha, with whom I shall discuss the question.

Your Lordship will find that Lord Donoughmore's despatches of 20th and 22nd September give a correct representation of the condition of these unhappy people.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 170.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 112. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, October* 28, 1878.

THE same day that the arrangement made between the Imperial Commissioner and the Delegates of the Cretan National Assembly was signed, his Excellency the Governor-General set out on a tour through the island for the purpose of provisionally establishing the executive and judicial authorities.

He first went to Rethymo, where, according to Mr. Trifilli, the British Consular Agent, the appointments made have given general satisfaction. The principal Chiefs in that district have flocked into town to welcome his Excellency, and it was remarked, as a feature which deeply impressed the popular imagination, that they and their followers all came armed, a circumstance which has never before occurred during the Turkish domination in Crete.

Costaki Pasha was anxious that the new executive authorities, on being installed in their posts, should be accompanied by regular troops, and by his personal influence over the Chiefs he at last carried his point, and three battalions, each about 400 men strong, have proceeded to the head-quarters of the newly-appointed Kaimakams. Their presence has had the effect of encouraging all the families of the Mussulmans who had remained behind in the town to join their husbands and brothers who had already preceded them.

From Rethymo his Excellency went overland to Candia, where he again applied himself to the task of setting up the broken-down administrative machinery. In the Christian sandjak of Mirabello he appointed as acting Mutessarif the Chief possessed of most influence in that part of Crete, and in spite of much opposition from the Christian inhabitants, the majority of whom, however, he ultimately gained over to his side, he established half a battalion of troops there, while in the three other places he distributed a battalion and a-half. His Excellency further took steps for filling up the ranks of the gendarmerie, and it remains to be seen whether the inhabitants will avail themselves of the opportunity now offered them of taking service in that corps. In order to encourage the Christians to do so, the Pasha has written to recommend the appointment of three Christian Majors who are to command in the districts of Canea, Candia, and Rethymo respectively, the other two Majors, who will be Mussulmans, commanding in the sandjaks administered by Christian Mutessarifs, while the Colonel of the entire force will be also a Mussulman. At present the only police remaining in the island are about 500 Albanians, excellent material for the work expected of them, and whose services it will probably be advisable to retain for the present.

The Vice-Consul of Candia reports to me that the appointments made by the Vali had not given satisfaction. His Excellency, who returned from his tour the day before yesterday, did me the honour of calling upon me the following day, when I had an opportunity of hearing from his own lips the motives which had influenced him in the choice of the functionaries he had named. His Excellency complained of the difficulty he had encountered in finding suitable persons to fill the vacant posts, particularly those connected with the Tribunals, and he declares that he had done the best he could with the unpromising materials at his disposal.

It will be some time before Crete can be supplied with a class of educated men capable of rightly administering justice, and his Excellency instanced Samos, where fifteen years ago he experienced a similar difficulty, but which now has no lack of well-trained and fairly upright Judges. When the time arrives for the Judges to be elected by the people, the result will not unlikely give less satisfaction than the present temporary appointments. If, therefore, Costaki Pasha has not succeeded in satisfying the public expectation in the district of Candia, I am disposed to think it due rather to the innate difficulties of the task before him, and to the dissatisfaction spread by a crowd of disappointed candidates, than to any want of discrimination on his part, seeing that his Excellency is fairly acquainted, from a four years' previous residence among them, with the principal inhabitants of that part of the island. The appointments, besides, are only temporary, and it will be easy to replace employés of proved inefficiency.

At any rate his Excellency has succeeded in the delicate task of re-establishing the authority of the Government in the districts visited by him, and before leaving Candia and Rethymo, he had, with the general approbation, issued an order forbidding the people to carry arms in public. He had also taken measures for the sale of the

tithes of the olive crop now being gathered, and some favourable orders had already been made. The strictest orders were left by him not to pay away any of the incoming revenue in satisfaction of arrears of pay, as it is absolutely essential, if any confidence is to be reposed in the new order of things, that the newly-constituted authorities and the police be paid with strict regularity, and Costaki Pasha, or whatever Governor may be named to administer Crete, will be responsible to the next General Assembly for the due application of the revenue now to be collected.

The Vali intends in a couple of days to complete his tour of the island by visiting the western cazas of Apokorona, Kéissamos, Selino, and Sphakia, where the utmost tact will be required to satisfy all parties. It is only due to the Christian Chiefs to say that, during the twenty days that they have been called on to keep the peace between their own people and the repatriated Mussulmans, no complaints have been made anywhere, except near Rethymo, of ill-treatment experienced by the latter. They have, on the contrary, in many places, fraternized with the Christians, and have openly declared that they will never again be tempted to quit their homes at the instigation of the Mussulman Beys dwelling in the towns. The Christians are proud of the rôle they have been called on to play, so new to them in the history of Cretan insurrections, of protecting their Mussulman fellow-countrymen, and nothing has more served to convince them of the honourable nature of the arrangement come to between their delegates and the Government. Three murders of Mussulmans in Rethymo district, where the mutual passions of the two communities were always more inflamed, have marred the otherwise peaceful return of the refugees to their homes.

On the 26th instant a Turkish corvette carried round to the coast of Selino the Mussulman women and children of that caza, accompanied by 150 regular soldiers. With their departure most of these deeply-to-be-pitied creatures have disappeared from the towns.

In Sphakia two questions still remain open, which I will briefly mention in the hope that their speedy settlement will prevent the necessity of my recurring to them. Your Lordship may remember that the Sphakians hesitated long before they consented to send delegates to treat with the Commissioner in common with the other islanders. When they came they told me that it was only at my repeated instances that their countrymen were willing to send them, and that they had been charged to put forward two demands, having special reference to their own district. The first was that, instead of their tithes being farmed out or collected by agents of the Government, they might undertake the collection themselves, and remit the proceeds to head-quarters here. They are willing to accept as their annual contribution the average of the tithes paid during any five recent consecutive years, and to give security for its regular payment. This is an ancient privilege, forfeited after the last insurrection. The other privilege, also an ancient one, has reference to the laws of succession. They desire that on the demise of the head of a family the property may be divided, in conformity with an old custom, by the village community, instead of the heirs being obliged to go to the head-quarters of the sandjak in Apokorona, where, they allege, they are often kept for weeks and months before their affairs are wound up; the expenses, moreover, sometimes swallowing up most of the heritage to be divided. I have long urged both his Excellency the Commissioner and the Governor-General to grant these demands, because they are in themselves trifling concessions (the tithes amounting to less than 300*l.* Turkish a-year); because I know the Sphakians are bent on obtaining them; and because the refusal to grant them is likely to lead to serious troubles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 171.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 212. Political. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 30, 1878.

I WAS informed yesterday that a hint had been received by this Government from a friendly Power recommending that the greatest caution should be observed as regards the occupation of the Dobrudscha, and I was asked by some persons holding responsible positions in the administration of this country whether or not Her Majesty's

Government saw any objection to Roumania taking immediate possession of her new territory.

It has been explained to me that the Roumanian military authorities consider that their garrison beyond the Danube would be in extreme peril from Russia should fresh hostilities break out in European Turkey, as their militia is now disbanded, and the regular forces would be thus divided by the Danube.

As great pressure is exercised here by Russia to induce the acceptance of her overtures by this Government, which, on the other hand, appear most desirous to have the advice of Her Majesty's Government as to the course Roumania should follow in taking possession of her new acquisition, it would appear desirable that the Court of Vienna should, if possible, be made acquainted with the difficulty which has arisen here, as, if Russian Councils should ultimately prevail, it would give Russia immense sway over the future of this country.

For my part, I have confined myself in a statement to the following effect, that I was not aware of any objection to the taking possession of its new territory by Roumania, especially as its boundary was going to be marked out in a few days by the Delimitation Commission, provided that such occupation was not accompanied by any secret engagements towards Russia, or by any arrangements conferring on the Russian Government rights of military passage different or for a longer period than the XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin has stipulated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 172.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 214. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 30, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Baron Fava, the Italian Agent and Consul-General here, returned, after an absence of several months, to his post.

Baron Fava has been quite lately to Rome, where he has seen M. Cairoli, and had an audience of the King of Italy. On his way back to Bucharest he received at Vienna the official announcement of his appointment as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at this Court, with instructions to continue his journey, as his credentials would follow him at once.

I need not say how gratified Prince Charles and his Government have been at this act of the Italian Government, which has thus followed, without loss of time, the example set by the Court of Vienna in recognizing Roumanian independence.

Baron Fava was the oldest Consul-General here, and is generally and most deservedly popular in Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 173.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 216. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, October* 31, 1878.

THE object of Russia in bringing to bear such an amount of pressure on Roumania with a view to secure the right of a military passage through the Dobrudscha for the future, without any limit of time, is evidently no other than to establish, not only a safe and indisputable mode of sending troops to Bulgaria, but likewise to sway the destinies of Roumania in future by making this country entirely subservient to her future ambitious plans.

The majority of Roumanian Ministers are fully sensible to the dangers which such a situation implies, but they are aware of their own weakness, and rely exclusively on the moral support and advice of friendly Powers.

They say that as the Great Powers have sanctioned in Congress the territorial

arrangement by which a certain territory on the opposite bank of the Danube was to be given to Roumania, those Powers will, they hope, enable them to obtain possession of and secure that acquisition without their being obliged to submit to such onerous terms.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 174.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 217. Political.)

Bucharest, October 31, 1878.

My Lord,

A CONSIDERABLE impression has been produced here by the appearance of the translation of two documents emanating from two Russian Governors, one of them being General Shebeco, appointed to receive Bessarabia, and the other the Governor of Toultcha.

I have the honour to inclose copies of these for your Lordship's information.

It is reported here that the Russian authorities in Bessarabia have prohibited the circulation of the Bucharest Liberal papers, and have also adopted other measures existing in the Russian Empire, but to which the Roumanians were no longer accustomed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 174.

Extract from "L'Orient" of October $\frac{17}{29}$, 1878.

DEUX DOCUMENTS.—Le premier, c'est l'Arrêté adressé par le Gouverneur de Toultcha aux populations de la Dobroudja, relativement à la réception des armées Roumaines; il a été publié en Russe, en Roumain, et en Bulgare; le second, c'est la Proclamation adressée aux Bessarabiens par le Gouvernement Russe; il n'a été publié qu'en Roumain. Voici ces documents:—

"*Arrêté du Gouverneur de Toultcha.*

"Considérant que la remise de la Dobroudja au Gouvernement Roumain doit avoir lieu bientôt et croyant que les habitants désirent recevoir cordialement les Roumains, l'Administration du Gouverneur de Toultcha déclare:

"1. Tous ceux qui désirent participer à la réception de l'armée Roumaine doivent se présenter à la Chancellerie du Conseil Communal, pour s'entendre avec le Président et les Muktars de toutes les nationalités de la ville au sujet de la manière et des moyens par lesquels on peut organiser cette solennité.

"2. Toutes manifestations, n'importe de quelle sorte, sont interdites.

"3. L'arrivée des autorités Roumaines sera annoncée la veille du jour où elle aura lieu.

"*Toultcha, le 6 Octobre*, 1878.

"Le Lieutenant du Gouverneur de Toultcha,
(Signé) "BELOTZERCOVETZ."

Proclamation du Gouvernement Russe aux Habitants de la partie de la Bessarabie réincorporée à la Russie.

"Habitants de toutes les classes et de toutes les confessions!

"Plus de vingt ans se sont passés depuis que, par la force invincible des événements, la partie de la Bessarabie que vous habitez a été détachée de la province avec laquelle elle constitue un tout complet et de la grande partie commune—le grand Empire Russe.

"Depuis, la face de la Russie a changé.

"Par la volonté puissante du grand Empereur Alexander Nicolaïevitch le peuple Russe a été appelé à une vie nouvelle.

"Plus de 20,000,000 de serfs ont été rendus à la liberté et sont devenus propriétaires; la publicité a été admise pour les arrêts de la justice, à laquelle le peuple participe aussi par ses représentants, le Jury et le Juge de Paix; à ce dernier, les parties en jugement peuvent s'adresser, non-seulement pour des affaires de leur ressort exclusif, mais aussi pour des affaires de n'importe quelle espèce et valeur, dans quelque état qu'elle se trouvent, pour être jugées selon l'équité et d'une manière définitive; les intérêts économiques locaux ont été confiés aux élus de toutes les classes de la population; les villes ont maintenant leur administration propre, et le territoire qu'elles occupent est leur propriété; la loi de recrutement a été réformée de manière à ce que chaque citoyen, sans distinction d'avoir ou de classe sociale, participe dans la même mesure à la défense de l'Etat.

"A partir du jour de votre réincorporation, c'est-à-dire à partir d'aujourd'hui, les autorités Russes seront installées, et elles vous communiqueront toutes les dispositions du Gouvernement, duquel vous êtes en droit de demander aide et appui en cas de besoin. A partir d'aujourd'hui la circulation sur votre territoire de la monnaie Russe et du papier-monnaie devient obligatoire; à partir d'aujourdhui le timbre et les timbres-poste Roumains seront remplacés par le timbre et les timbres-poste Russes. Les frontières entre la Russie et la Roumanie sont désormais d'un côté le Pruth, de l'autre le Danube.

"Vous pouvez être parfaitement convaincus que la religion, l'honneur, la vie, et l'avoir de chacun de vous se trouveront dorénavant sous l'égide des lois de l'Empire, des Tribunaux, et des autorités constituées; et que toute violation de l'ordre et de la tranquillité publique, ces garanties du développement civique, ne restera jamais sans être poursuivie et punie.

"Beaucoup d'entre vous, j'en suis sûr, n'ont pas oublié le temps où vous vous trouviez encore sous le sceptre bienfaisant du Czar de Russie, de manière que les nouvelles conditions dans lesquelles vous vous missez à votre ancienne patrie ne doivent nullement produire en vous des regrets pour un passé récent.

"La justice orale est mise à votre portée dès à présent, et, si les Juges de Paix, pour cette première fois, n'ont pas été nommés à l'élection, la cause de cette mesure provisoire est le défaut où vous vous trouvez des institutions économiques locales auxquelles est confiée l'élection de ces Juges. Ces institutions, ainsi que le système décentralisateur dans l'administration des villes et autres établissements, en vigueur dans les autres parties de l'Empire, ne tarderont pas à se répandre chez vous aussi, aussitôt que le Gouvernement aura recueilli toutes les informations et tous les éléments nécessaires à la modification de l'état de choses dans lequel vous vous êtes trouvés jusqu'aujourd'hui. En un mot, vous vous identifierez à toutes les autres parties de l'Empire, et vous jouirez de tous les droits et de toutes les prérogatives des sujets Russes, de même que vous subirez aussi toutes les obligations qui incombent aux citoyens de l'Empire.

"A l'occasion de cette journée importante pour vous, je me sens heureux de pouvoir vous communiquer que Sa Majesté a daigné signer le Décret suivant:—

"'Les habitants des villes et des villages de la partie de la Bessarabie qui est réincorporée à la Russie sont exempts jusqu'au 1er Janvier, 1879, de tout paiement des contributions directes et des impôts directs de répartition.'

"Une pareille faveur souveraine ne doit pas manquer de faire naître dans l'âme des populations une gratitude profonde pour notre bienfaisant Empereur.

"Que Dieu protége votre nouvelle vie dans la grande famille Russe! Soyez dignes du grand Empire qui vous reçoit dans son sein avec le même amour qu'une mère mettrait à recevoir des enfants qu'elle aurait perdus et qu'elle retrouverait. Poursuivez vos occupations sans hésitation, sans crainte de l'avenir.

"Ismail, le 9 Octobre, 1878.

"Le Plénipotentiaire Principal de Sa Majesté l'Empereur pour la réception de la Bessarabie du Gouvernement Roumain, Gouverneur de la Bessarabie,
"Le Général-Major de la Suite Impériale,
(Signé) "SCHEBEKO."

No. 175.

Major Gordon, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 31, 1878.

REFERRING to your Lordship's despatch No. 7 of the 3rd October, 1878, inclosing copy of despatch from Sir H. Drummond Wolff relative to the feasibility of settling a map for the internal distribution of Eastern Roumelia, I have the honour to report that, after careful consideration and consultation with Colonel Home, I am convinced that the expenditure and labour of such an undertaking greatly exceeds any limit conceived by Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Colonel Home, in his despatch addressed to your Lordship on this subject, pointed out the nature of work, both as regards time and labour, of a revenue survey such as would be required to be made to obtain a census of Eastern Roumelia, the area of which is over 60,000 square miles, and in the various minutes of his despatch I entirely concur.

None of the Commissioners (excepting the British) for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia are supplied with instruments for conducting anything beyond a simple military survey, and it is not to be expected that Her Majesty's Government would bear the expense of such an undertaking as that of a revenue survey.

The East Roumelian Boundary Commission proceed to Adrianople on the 5th November, when I will endeavour to obtain for Sir H. Drummond Wolff every possible information as may be of service to him.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 176.

Major Gordon, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 11.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Constantinople, October* 31, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, précis of the first official meeting for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia.

Lieutenant-Colonel Chakir Bey's powers have since been signed by the Grand Vizier.

I am of opinion that the Turkish Representative should have been nominated President throughout the sitting of the Commission, and at the first official meeting at Adrianople shall propose that he may be re-elected.

It appears to me desirable that the line from Mustapha Pasha to the Black Sea should be completed this year, and consequently I advocated that we should commence at Bourgas, so as to arrive at the Tundja Valley towards the end of November, when the weather may be expected to break.

The Commission might then have taken refuge for a time at Adrianople, from whence advantage might have been taken of any fine weather to complete the loop round Adrianople from the Tundja Valley to Mustapha Pasha; whereas working eastwards, if bad weather comes on, there is no large town sufficiently near the line of delimitation where shelter could be obtained, and from whence a few fine days might be utilized.

I fear, under the circumstances, that my colleagues will advocate a return to Constantinople on the first appearance of winter.

At our second official meeting held on the 30th instant, it was decided that the Commission should proceed to Adrianople on the 5th November.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 176.

Précis of Official Meeting of the Eastern Roumelian Boundary Commission Monday, October 28, 1878.

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL CHAKIR BEY, the Turkish Commissioner, states that his commission had not yet been signed by the Grand Vizier, but he believed he would be able to place it on the table at the next meeting.

The Turkish Commissioner was unanimously elected President during the stay of the Commission in Constantinople, the question of Presidency in the field being left to be decided by vote at the first meeting of the Commission on the scene of operations.

As the Russian Government stipulates in the powers given to their Commissioner that, in the event of his being in the minority on any question, they do not bind themselves to accept the decision of the majority, the other Commissioners state that they also reserve the same power for their respective Governments.

It was agreed to decide all questions by majority of votes, the votes of the minority being inserted in the Protocols, with the reasons; without hindrance, however, to the progress of work.

It was decided to commence the delimitation of the boundary near Mustapha Pasha, working towards the Black Sea. The British Commissioner alone was in the minority, proposing to start from Bourgas so as to arrive in the neighbourhood of Adrianople when the weather broke.

The Italian Commissioner presented a note as to the method of operation in the field. This does not call for special notice. It will be found in the Protocols which are being now printed, and will be forwarded as early as possible.

(Signed) R. GORDON.

Hotel Royal, Pera, October 30, 1878.

No. 177.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 9. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rustchuk, November* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that the Imperial Russian Commissioner, Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, arrived here from Sofia the day before yesterday.

Yesterday morning, at his invitation, the Consuls paid him a visit, during which he made an extraordinary statement.

As he spoke the whole time to the French Consul, M. Schefer (who, with M. Gubernatis, the Italian, were the only members of the Commission for Bulgaria present), I could not catch the whole of the Prince's words, but my colleague tells me that they were as follows:—

Speaking of the Commission, he said that it would have very little to do, as he had already arranged almost all that was necessary, with the exception, perhaps, of some financial matters.

He said that, as he had found the Turkish vilayet laws to be good, and, with some modifications, well adapted to Bulgaria, he had had them promulgated.

That all the Tribunals had been established by him, and that they were carrying out the above laws.

That the army, with the exception of the cavalry (for which more horses were required), was already formed.

"In short," he added, "there will be very little for you Consular Commissioners to do; but if I am arranging some street, and interfere with any property belonging to a foreigner, and his Consul addressed himself to me, I may, perhaps, be inclined to hear him."

This, I am told, he said in a way to lead the Consuls to look upon this as a favour on his part.

He finished up by advising the Consuls to keep away from Sofia as long as possible, as it was a disagreeable place, where it was very difficult to find houses.

This speech, as your Lordship may imagine, has confused the two Commissioners here, who do not know what to make of it. Some think that the Prince's object is to

prepare them for submission to his dictation, and that this was one of the principal objects of his coming here.

The Prince has left for Shumla and Varna, and is expected back to-morrow on his return to Sofia.

I deem it proper also to inform your Lordship that, on the arrival of Prince Dondoukoff, circulars announcing his arrival, and stating when he would receive the Consuls, were sent round to all the corps (including the Belgian), but with the exception of the Greek, who consequently did not visit the Prince.

He afterwards came to me to inform me of the fact, which, he said, he had reason to think was done purposely, as since his arrival here about a week ago, although he has paid the necessary official visits, he has almost been ignored by the authorities here, both Russian and Bulgarian.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 178.

Sir R. Stephenson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

My Lord, *72, Lancaster Gate, W., London, October 28, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to address your Lordship, in continuation of previous communications, with reference to the construction of railways, in and through Asiatic Turkey.

As the plans proposed by me (copies of which, with the conditions submitted to the Ottoman Government, are inclosed) do not involve any guarantee, I may, I trust, be permitted to ask to be informed, before proceeding with further negotiations in Constantinople, whether Her Majesty's Government have any intention of giving a guarantee, as an impression is entertained in Turkey that an application has been made to the Government with this object.

I venture to assume that the economical and effectual carrying out of these works in Asiatic Turkey would be regarded by Her Majesty's Government with interest, as contributing materially to the more perfect working of the new police, judicial, and revenue arrangements of the country, and this is also a point on which I should be glad to have some assurance to guide my future action. I believe that under the special conditions proposed to the Ottoman Government, the cost of these works will be so moderate as to ensure their being at once remunerative upon the existing traffic of the country, limited as it undoubtedly is at present by the want of means of communication.

I submit that the advantages of these conditions to the Ottoman Government are such, and so important, securing as they do to the Government a large share of the profits in return for their co-operation in a form which involves no pecuniary outlay on their part, as to justify the hope that the Ottoman Government may be induced to avail themselves of the opportunity now afforded for affecting a long-desired object, under far more favourable circumstances than the Government have ever yet been able to obtain.

I do not know if it is within the province of Her Majesty's Government to recommend my proposals to the Ottoman Government, but it would be of great interest to me to know whether such a recommendation could and would be made.

The Ottoman Government are not asked to grant any concession without a definite security for due fulfilment, as it has been intimated to them that upon their approval of the conditions submitted, and the assurance that if they are satisfied that the capital can be raised, they will then, and then only, make a contract or grant a concession upon these terms. I shall only require a few months' time to complete the necessary engineering and financial arrangements, and to afford the Government conclusive evidence that the capital has been subscribed for the purpose.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. MACDONALD STEPHENSON

No. 179.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 970.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 6, 1878.*

THERE have been some disturbances amongst Montefik tribes near Busreh, but I have heard nothing to confirm statements contained in your telegram of yesterday, nor has the Porte. Reuter's telegrams from this are rarely [trustworthy ?].

No. 180.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 977.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 6, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL at Gallipoli telegraphs that Governor has received following telegram from Kaimakan of Gumurdjina:—

"On Friday and Saturday last from 3,000 to 4,000 armed Bulgarians, partly cavalry, made an irruption into eleven Mussulman villages of district of Demotica, consisting of about 300 houses. These villages were all pillaged and burnt, the cattle, grain, and property carried off, and the Turkish women and children who fell into the hands of the Bulgarians were massacred, after undergoing horrible torture. Those who escaped are at Kisharkeuy, and implore relief."

No. 181.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(No. 182.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 7, 1878.*

A CONTRACT has been concluded by Russian Government with firm at Helsingfors for 600 ammunition carriages.

No. 182.

Colonel Nixon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 7.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, November 7, 1878.*

THE Arab tribes in the Bussorah district, and in Nejid, were in a disturbed state, but troops were sent from here, and all is now quiet again, except in Nejid, to which place 800 additional troops have been sent; full reports forwarded to Ambassador at Constantinople.

Her Majesty's ship "Vulture" has put a stop to piracies on the Arab shores of Persian Gulf, and is now at Bussorah. By last accounts all quiet at Mosul. Have telegraphed for [news ?].

No. 183.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1309.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1878.*

YOUR despatch No. 1316, Confidential, of the 24th ultimo, has been received and laid before the Queen, and I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve the instructions which you have addressed to Captain Trotter, who is about to take temporary charge of Her Majesty's Consulate at Erzeroum.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 184.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 92.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1878.*

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the letter which you addressed to Lord Donoughmore on the 19th ultimo upon the subject of the administration of the finances by the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia, copy of which was inclosed in your despatch No. 70 of the 21st October.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 185.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 93.) [B.B.]

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1878.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 71 of the 21st instant giving an account of what passed at an audience which you and Lord Donoughmore had of the Sultan on the 20th ultimo, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language which you held to His Majesty on that occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 186.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 94.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1878.*

I HAVE under my consideration your despatch No. 72 of the 22nd ultimo, and in reply I have to state to you that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, the International Commission established by the XVIIIth and XIXth Articles of the Treaty of Berlin cannot be considered to have completely fulfilled the task assigned to it until it shall have been consulted by the Porte on the reformed schemes for the administration of the Island of Crete, and of the other portions of Turkey in Europe for which no special organization has been provided by the Treaty, in accordance with the provisions laid down in the XXIIIrd Article.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 187.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 39.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1878.*

I HAVE to state to you that I fully approve your proceedings as detailed in your despatch No. 23 of the 24th ultimo in reporting the results of the first meeting of the Commission of which you are a member.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 188.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 40.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 7, 1878.*

UNDER the circumstances mentioned in your despatch No. 24 of the 24th ultimo, I approve of your having detached Captain Murray and two sappers to remain for the present at the disposal of Her Majesty's Ambassador.

With regard to the travelling expenses of the officers employed by you in collecting information as to military movements and the state of the country evacuated by the Russians, I authorize you to charge those expenses on the occasion in question in the accounts of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 189.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 7. Commercial.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, October 23, 1878.*

NOTWITHSTANDING the sums which in the shape of arrears of subsidies this country has lately received from Russia for her tardy co-operation in the Russo-Turkish war, as much as 200,000 ducats, or close upon 100,000*l.*, having been on credible authority mentioned as the amount, her finances are in as disordered and desperate a condition as they can well be. It was only with much difficulty that the money was forthcoming to pay last month the salaries due to the civil servants of the Government. The army is provided for to a great extent by requisitions in kind of all sorts, but to an unprofessional observer its equipment and war material seem to be in a wretched state.

Under these circumstances, the Government has been for some time back vainly making efforts to raise a foreign loan on the security of the Customs' receipts, &c., as the easiest means of temporarily extricating itself from its pecuniary embarrassments. Unfortunately there is no one connected with it who is acquainted with the commonest rudiments of finance. Consequently, without taking the least into account how little is known abroad of Servia and the resources she may dispose of, and how that little is to her disadvantage, since she has not from the very first attempted to pay the interest on the only two loans she has ever contracted, the decision has been come to not to offer above 6, or it is now said 8 per cent. for a loan at par. The last person who has been informally entrusted with a financial mission is a well-known Jewish medical gentleman of the name of Brühl. He is stated to have been chosen on the strength of his being on terms of intimacy with one of his co-religionists, who is a banker of eminence at Vienna, and who has formerly had some dealings with Servia. He has already returned to Belgrade, but I am unable for the present to say what success may have attended his efforts. I however hear that the Government are about to appoint a regular Financial Agent with the necessary full powers to enable him to negotiate the loan it is in such pressing need of.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 190.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 84. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October 26, 1878.*

I HAVE been informed that Prince Nicholas has declined to allow the Mahommedans of Antivari and the Kraïa, about whom I had the honour to telegraph to your Lordship on the 9th instant, to return to their homes, on the ground that they had opposed the Montenegrin advance during the war; and also as His Highness has not yet been put in possession of Podgoritza and the other frontier fortresses.

The first plea might hardly to be considered valid, as the male inhabitants of this province form a regularly embodied force for frontier defence, and are under the control and command of the Government.

Should the fugitives find themselves much longer deprived of both homes and property, they might, through desperation, attempt to drive out the Montenegrins from the conquered territory.

The return of the prisoners of war from Montenegro which had commenced has been stopped.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 191.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 85. Political.)

Scutari, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the state of public feeling in North Albania has undergone, during the last few days, a most notable change.

News of events passing in the neighbouring provinces was not credited by the natives until it could be confirmed by eye-witnesses, and for this reason the progress of the Austrians in Bosnia and Herzegovina at first produced no effect on the populations here.

Now that they have seen disarmed Turkish troops arrive through Montenegro from the Herzegovina, and that they know the Cadi of Taschlidja has reached Ipek, accompanied by upwards of 800 fugitives, they are prepared to believe everything lost, and themselves help to spread reports of improbable disasters and occurrences.

The refugees from Bosnia are indisposed to stop at Ipek, Jacova, or even Prisrend, as they declare the enemy will shortly reach those places; and, it is certain, if the occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar is attempted immediately by the Austrians, it will be accomplished with hardly any difficulty or loss.

The discouragement at present is so great, that a report was in circulation that Goussinié had delivered itself up to Montenegro, but news has reached this to-day that it was only despondent, as assistance from other parts of Albania had not reached it to the extent it had hoped for. From Jacova 500 men had been sent, but their departure for Goussinié was the signal for their own town to be invaded by the neighbouring peasantry, who forced the Turkish Kaïmakam to retire in favour of a local Bey; and he now governs Jacova in his own name.

From my past experience of the Albanians, I would not, however, be astonished to see their courage and violence return as quickly as they have at present subsided.

In the meantime, local disorders will probably increase, the present opportunity being considered favourable for the settlement *si et armis* of old blood feuds and private quarrels.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 192.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 86. Political.)

Scutari, October 29, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 77, Political, of the 7th instant, I have the honour to report that the Governor-General, Hussein Pasha, left this yesterday for Cavaja, accompanied by the Chief of the Police, in order to superintend personally the investigation into the recent murders of the Turkish functionaries of that place.

Owing to the district of Matia forming part of the vilayet of Kossovo, although it is much nearer to Scutari than Cavaja, Hussein Pasha will be unable to examine into another murder, that of Rizah Bey, the Kaïmakam of Matia, and the whole of his family, during a popular tumult.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 193.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 782.)

Vienna, November 2, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Treaty of Berlin having provided that Roumania is to be represented on the European-Danubian Commission, a Commissioner has been nominated by Prince Charles' Government, but M. Balatchano has expressed to me some anxiety lest his presence

at the sitting fixed for the 5th instant should be objected to by the Commissioners of the Powers which have not yet recognized the independence of the Principality.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 194.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 783.)

Vienna, November 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I ASKED Baron Orczy to-day what view the Austro-Hungarian Government took of the proposal that the delimitation of the frontier between Servia and Bulgaria should be fixed by the Servian Commission, and I informed him at the same time of the substance of the communication made by your Lordship to M. Bartholomei on the 25th ultimo.

Baron Orczy said that this Government had taken precisely the same view as your Lordship, and, in authorizing their Servian Delimitation Commissioner to join in tracing the Servo-Bulgarian frontier had stated that when the work was completed it should be forwarded to the European Bulgarian Commission for approval.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 195.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 784.)

Vienna, November 4, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Circular of the French Government of the 21st ultimo, proposing that the Powers should now offer their mediation in the matter of the rectification of the frontier between Turkey and Greece, has been in the hands of the Austrian Government for some days, but they are waiting to be informed by Count Beust of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon it before returning an answer.

Baron Orczy tells me that they are decidedly in favour of agreeing to it, especially as they are informed that all the other Cabinets have expressed themselves in favour of doing so.

I said that I was not acquainted with the view taken by your Lordship of the proposal, but that taking into consideration the excited state of the Albanian populations, it appeared to me very doubtful whether the moment was opportune for exerting a pressure upon the Porte that might increase it.

He did not dispute this, but said that it was necessary to do something to show that the Powers did not recede from what had been decided at Berlin, and that if the Porte named a Commissioner to treat upon the subject there need be no occasion for proceeding with any haste in reference to it.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 196.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 891.)

Paris, November 7, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY, in execution of the instruction conveyed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 724 of the 31st ultimo, I told M. Waddington that although Her Majesty's Government would have preferred to see the civil administration of Eastern Roumelia vested without delay in some other authority than that which exercises the military occupation, they were nevertheless willing to concur in the views on the subject expressed in his Excellency's note to me of the 24th of last month.

M. Waddington answered that no doubt the separation of the two Powers was in

principle correct and desirable, but he thought that in practice it would encounter insuperable difficulties.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 197.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 8.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, November 7, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, that in a letter dated the 29th ultimo Rear-Admiral Commerell has reported that two Turkish iron-clads had been employed distributing troops on the island of Crete for the purpose of installing newly-appointed officials, and that the troops were about to be reduced and sent home.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

No. 198.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 8.)

(Secret.)
My Lord, *Admiralty, November 7, 1878.*

WITH reference to your letter of the 21st ultimo, marked Secret, and to my letter of the 1st instant, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Sir Edmund Commerell, dated the 30th ultimo, reporting the state of affairs at Rodosto, Sharkoi, and Gallipoli.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 198.

Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *"Salamis," at Gallipoli, October 30, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to request you will inform the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that, carrying out the intention I expressed in my telegram of yesterday, I this day visited Rodosto and Sharkoi in the "Salamis," and arrived this evening at Gallipoli.

2. From all I could learn at Rodosto there are no Russians nearer that place in force than Lulé Bourgas, but they have a cavalry outpost of about 100 troopers within about six hours or 15 miles' distance.

3. The Turkish force at Rodosto consists of two battalions of infantry under the command of a Colonel whom I saw, and who informed me that he was without orders how to act in case of a sudden advance of the Russians; and it appears to me, in the present state of things, if he found himself compelled to retire, unless he made his escape by sea, his retreat most probably would be cut off.

4. As regards the practicability of embarking such a force, there are generally a certain number of native craft at anchor off the town, but I think there should be a Turkish man-of-war permanently stationed in the roads, as, otherwise, with the inevitable indecision of the Turks, should a crisis occur, these men, who could ill be afforded, might never rejoin the army at Gallipoli.

5. At present, the authorities seem to have no apprehensions of the Russians returning to Rodosto, but, as a rule, they know so little of what is going on outside the immediate vicinity of their towns, that this feeling of security may or may not be warranted.

6. I could hear nothing in conversation with the various Consuls of any disturbances of any consequence in the neighbourhood. Occasionally a highway robbery occurs, and sometimes there is accompanying violence, but nothing has taken place to lead me to suppose that there is a system of retaliation being carried on by the returning Mussulman refugees against the Bulgarians and the Greeks.

7. In the afternoon I visited Sharkoi, and landed and saw the Kaïmakam. Here also there are two Turkish battalions spread over a considerable district, some of the detachments being as far distant from head-quarters as fifteen miles.

8. The Major in command informed me that he had no orders either, in case of the Russians advancing; but his position is better than the troops at Rodosto, and I think he could retreat to Gallipoli by land.

9. There are no Russians in force nearer Sharkoi than Usun Kupru, and their outposts occupy three villages situated near Malgara and to the north of it.

As at Rodosto, there were no apprehensions here of a reoccupation by the Russians.

10. I visited portions of the town of Sharkoi, which had been very much injured by the Russians during their stay there. Most of the houses in the Mussulman quarter have been destroyed, and, notably so, the only mosque in the place, which was entirely gutted and half pulled down. The Mussulman population have, however, returned, and, finding themselves houseless, are occupying dwellings in the Christian quarter with the free consent of the owners.

11. The Kaïmakam informed me that there was very great distress in the villages near Sharkoi (partially due to a forced sale of grain to the Russians at quarter value), and that he had 3,000 refugees on his hands, whom he feared would hardly survive the winter.

12. I shall remain at Gallipoli the night, and to-morrow obtain any additional information I can, and by Friday's mail will report further.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL, *Rear-Admiral.*

No. 199.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, November 6, 1878.*

(*En Clair.*)—ON 31st October, Thursday, sent Constantinople:—

(*In Cypher.*) "Mustapha Pasha, of Kalkandele, who has recently returned from Constantinople, has telegraphed, in the name of League, summonses to all the towns in Albania for delegates to be sent to Prisrend.

"Mahommedans here held meeting to-day, and to-morrow will elect their Delegate, whose name will probably be submitted to the approval of the Governor."

No. 200.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 978.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1878.*

CAPTAIN MURRAY just returned from Kustendil and adjoining districts of Macedonia, fully confirms insurrectionary movement in that province secretly encouraged by Russians. His report will be sent by messenger to-morrow. In order to obtain further information on this subject he proposes to go again into Macedonia by Salonica. Shall I authorize him to do so? I shall then have no one to send to lines of Bulair, which urgently require watching, unless Captain Fife could come out at once.

No. 201.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 7, 1878.*
(Secret.)

"EXCELLENT authority" has told me that he has to-day received from Greek Chargé d'Affaires in London information that the English Government, though considering moment inopportune, would join other Powers in representation to be made by France relative to the rectification of the Greek frontier.

His position, as always relying on aid from England, has become most painful. England had declined to join German representation, and now again appeared to join with France unwillingly. How can "excellent authority" continue to exhort Greece to believe in English aid in the face of this?

He expressed his conviction that Hellenic element would be crushed in Macedonia and Thrace without protection, which Greece would only be able to give it, if strengthened by territory which Congress of Berlin recommended should be conceded. Bulgarians were powerfully supported by Russia, and against them and Turks, Greeks had no protection.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 202.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 979.) *Therapia, November 8, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

SPECIAL Council of Ministers will be summoned for to-morrow to consider Greek question, without decision of which Grand Vizier is unable to give me an answer.

No. 203.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 980.) *Therapia, November 8, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

PORTE has sent Circular to its Diplomatic Agents abroad, requesting them to sound Governments to which they are accredited as to whether it should accede to the demands of Russia for definite Treaty, and stating what is required by Russia.

No. 204.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 981.) *Therapia, November 8, 1878.*
(Telegraphic.)

PORTE has addressed a second note to the Russian Ambassador with respect to villages destroyed and Mussulmans massacred by the Bulgarians in Demotica district, asking for an inquiry by a joint Turkish and Russian Commission on the spot, and in the territory occupied by Russians, in which the bands that committed the outrages were formed.

Porte has also prepared a Circular to the Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, calling attention to the insurrectionary movement in Macedonia, and pointing out that it is organized and carried on from territory occupied by Russia. It has not yet been sent, and I may be in time to stop it should you disapprove and will let me know at once.

No. 205.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 982.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 6th instant, Porte has called upon the Servian Government to evacuate at once Turkish territory occupied by Servian troops. Turkish troops, I am assured, are ready to replace them.

No. 206.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1878.*

SITTING to-day of six hours. Kallay's proposal carried. Turkish proposal for repatriation discussed. I made a protest against ill-treatment of Mussulmans and Jews. Declaration made by five Commissioners in favour of repatriation. Russian and German voted against. I made a proposal that Financial Committee examine means of relieving or repatriating refugees, and superintend emigrants of all races and religions. Accepted unanimously.

Different members deputed to make proposals for carrying out different sections of Kallay's report. I am charged with the head "droit public" and privileges of the province, as well as representative portion. Lord Donoughmore is charged with the police and gendarmerie. I was kept too late to write account by messenger just left.

No. 207.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 7, 1878.*

I THINK Jewish communities at all the capitals represented here should make a formal application to the Russian Government that Jewish emigrants from Eastern Roumelia and refugees in province itself should be allowed to return to their homes, their safety and the restoration of their property being guaranteed by the Russian authorities. This would either elicit and place on record a categorical refusal, or would establish a precedent which could not be ignored in case of a similar demand by Turkey.

The Turkish Commissioners declare that, if something is not done, the winter will produce appalling distress and calamity.

If your Lordship approves my idea, will you kindly take necessary steps, and inform me of result. The matter is most pressing.

I have suggested to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that a demand of this kind should be at once made by the "Alliance Israélite" in that city to the Russian Ambassador.

No. 208.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, November 7, 1878.*

IN compliance with instructions from Sir H. Elliot, I told Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs this morning that Mr. Gould reports a sudden and complete change in the apparent policy of Servia, and that military preparations have been taken in hand in that Principality. I added that Mr. Gould suggests that as the frontier Commission expect to have finished their work in ten days, it would be very desirable that as soon as this is done the great Powers should call upon Servia to withdraw her

troops within proper limits; but I explained to Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs that Sir H. Elliot had no instructions from your Lordship on the subject.

Count Andrassy replied that his programme is, and will continue to be, the strict execution of the Treaty of Berlin, and that he will support any steps taken to induce both Turkey and Servia to act in this sense. He said that he is most anxious to be able to declare in the delegations that the Treaty is being executed by the Turks.

M. Ristics has informed him that Prince Milan's intended sojourn at Nisch is meant to counteract Bulgarian intrigues and encroachments. The Count thinks this may be partly true.

Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople telegraphs that the insurrectionary movement is gaining ground.

No. 209.

Colonel Nixon to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bagdad, November 7, 1878.*

MR. VICE-CONSUL RUSSELL reports everything quiet at Moossul. Troops arriving from seat of war and others expected. Telegraphic communication not interrupted now. Previously line was cut, but repaired after a few days. If anything extraordinary occurs will telegraph immediately. At present pacification of country certain. Arab tribes took opportunity of withdrawal of Turkish troops to fight amongst themselves. No interference with British interests. All previous disturbances purely local.

No. 210.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 8.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, November 8, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of yesterday, Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs informs me that he has telegraphed to Austrian Agent at Belgrade to urge upon the Servian Government the withdrawal of their troops within proper limits as soon as frontier Commission shall have completed its labours.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs desires me to state to your Lordship that Count Schouvaloff announces that he will be here in three or four days time. He has no idea what Count Schouvaloff wishes to say to him.

No. 211.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 8, 1878, 5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 272 of the 4th instant, I greatly doubt wisdom of agreeing to Article IV, sub-section E, of proposed definitive Treaty; and it is not easy to understand meaning of sub-sections A and F. I refer to your despatch No. 1148 of the 18th September last.

No. 212.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1385.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 8, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram of the 4th instant, in which you state that the Grand Vizier is being pressed by Prince Labanoff to conclude the definitive Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey, the draft of which was inclosed with your despatch No. 1148, Confidential, of the 18th September last, and that his Highness wished to know what course I would recommend him to pursue.

In reply, you may state to his Highness that I greatly doubt the wisdom of agreeing to subsection E in Article IV of the draft Treaty, which prescribes for a continuance of the administration by the Russians of the territories to be restored by them to Turkey until the evacuation shall have been completed, to the entire exclusion of the Sublime Porte, as well as the time and conditions under which the Ottoman troops may reoccupy these localities.

With regard to subsections A and F in the same Article their object and significance is not easy to understand, and I am therefore unable to express any confident opinion as to the expediency of signing them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 213.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 515.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 29, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Russian party at Athens, whose influence for some time past has been much weakened, is becoming more active, and is endeavouring to spread the belief here that the wishes of Greece can only be realized by Russia. It seeks thus to deprive England and France of the merit of having been the first to take the initiative in the question of a rectification of Greek frontier.

It is believed that the return of M. Sabouroff to his post has been hastened to work in this sense.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 214.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 60. Political.)

My Lord, *Galatz, November 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I am informed that the 1st, 4th, and 5th regiments of Roumanian infantry have arrived at Ibraïla, and that the 2nd regiment of Rosiori (Roumanian cavalry) and the 1st regiment of Artillery may be expected shortly. These troops form part of the force intended for the occupation of the Dobrudscha, the whole force amounting to about 10,000 men.

The Roumanian gun-boats, "Stefan-cel-Mare," "Romania," and "Fulgerul," and a small Roumanian tug-boat, the "Yiul," have left for Ibraïla, to assist in transporting troops, and the services of several tugs and lighters have been obtained for the same purpose; the passage is stated to have been fixed for the 8th instant, but it seems probable that, in consequence of certain conditions formulated by the Russians, it may be delayed.

A rumour was current that a new Russian army corps was moving through Moldavia, but, from inquiries which I have made, there appears to be no such force moving through my district.

Provisions and military stores are arriving at Ibraïla from Giurgevo, and are being shipped by the Russians to Bourgas.

Some of the Russian hospitals at Galatz seem likely to remain for at least six months longer, as the houses are being rented for a new term.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PERCY SANDERSON.

No. 215.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 8, 1878.*

SIR H. LAYARD telegraphs me you are of opinion that the Porte is not bound to take advice of the Commission, or to obtain its consent to issue of Cretan Firman.

As your Lordship's No. 17 [and the?] answers from Powers adopt a contrary view, I should be glad of direct instructions by telegraph.

No. 216.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 8, 1878.*

I UNDERSTAND troops are leaving this by train in considerable numbers, to reinforce posts between Adrianople and Lulé-Bourgas.

Some came here recently from Adrianople, *en route* for Sofia.

No. 217.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1878, 2·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 43 of the 6th instant, suggest the use of the word non-Mussulman instead of the word Christian.

No. 218.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 9, 1878, 5·10 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 970 of the 4th instant, it would be expedient that a British officer should be present during whole delimitation.

He must, under agreement, be present during the Alashkerd part of it. Impossible, I imagine, to prosecute it on the spot until spring.

No. 219.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9, 6 P.M.)

(No. 202.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 9, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY will have almost immediately to make a statement on his foreign policy to the Delegations, and it is of the utmost importance that he should be able to say on that occasion that the Porte is carrying out all the provisions of the Treaty, and that steps are being taken for the early evacuation of Podgoritza. He says that his programme still is, and will continue to be, the strict execution of the Treaty.

No. 219*a*.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 9.)

(No. 983.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 9, 1878.*

MALET wishes to visit Syria. With a view to the possibility of your wishing to see me in England, do you object to his doing so? He could return at a fortnight's notice.

No. 220.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1396.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 9, 1878.*

YOUR Excellency informs me that the Grand Vizier has expressed a wish to know the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the participation of a British officer in the operations for carrying into execution Article LVIII and LX of the Treaty of Berlin and the Agreement signed by Count Schouvaloff and myself on the 12th July last. I have to request you to inform his Highness that although the presence of a British officer is under these stipulations obligatory only on the Alashkerd frontier, Her Majesty's Government consider that it would be expedient that he should be present at the delimitation of the whole of the new boundary which is to be traced between the territories belonging to Russia and Turkey in Asia.

It is, however, apparently impossible that any sensible progress can be made with these operations until the spring.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 221.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 10.)

(No. 183.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 9, 1878.*

I HAVE just received a note from M. de Giers in reply to my note of the 24th ultimo, reporting Prince Dondoukoff's language to Lord Donoughmore. M. de Giers expresses regret and surprise that such importance should have been given to expressions made use of in private conversation. The Imperial Commissioner will be informed of unfortunate misunderstanding resulting from his words, and he adds the assurance that as it is the wish of the Emperor to give all due respect to stipulations of Treaty of Berlin, and to bring about pacification so much desired by faithful execution of Treaty. No Imperial functionary will fail in his duties in this respect.

No. 222.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 9, 1878.*

NOTHING of great importance to-day. I made reservations founded on Treaty of Berlin respecting a letter addressed to us by Governor-General about finances. Great demonstrations are preparing by Bulgaria against our labours.

No. 223.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 9, 1878.*

WILL your Lordship kindly send me at once Mr. Gladstone's proposals of reform in the Ionian Islands, laid before Parliament in 1859.

No. 224.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 10.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 9, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Commissioner having informed me that Vranja Valley, though not yet marked, has been settled, I have accordingly taken steps to cause Servian troops to be withdrawn behind new frontier.

Her Majesty's Commissioner adds that peasants in occupied districts being armed, there will be many troubles if the Turkish troops do not advance simultaneously with retirement of the Servian troops.

Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs states, at the same time, that con-

siderable agitation exists in above-mentioned districts on account of activity of Bulgarian Committee.

No. 225.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 10, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November 10, 1878.*

CONSIDERABLE alarm produced by persistence in her pretensions by Russia. They consist in requiring an engagement by Roumania to give Russia absolute military command of Dobrudscha prior to its occupation, inclusive of retention by her of such [places ?] as Sulina and others, also Kustendji, where guns are being again mounted in position by Russians, who all say they expect a war with England. Roumania, refusing to sign the Convention demanded, had the intention to cross into the Dobrudscha, after informing Russia first, and then the Signatory Powers, of her being about to do so; but hesitates, under the impression that, in case of a collision, she might be left unsupported by other Powers.

The attitude of Austria does not appear sufficiently clear, and the sudden evacuation [of ?] this side of the Danube by Russian troops gives colour to the impression that this may be done with a view to confine future military operations from Bessarabia through the Dobrudscha, and thus leave a sufficiently large neutral zone to satisfy Austrian susceptibilities. This Government looks forward to such friendly advice and assistance from Her Majesty's Government as may secure to them the friendly co-operation of Austria, and enable them so to shape their course as to [occupy ?] the Dobrudscha without incurring the dangers which they apprehend.

No. 226.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 10, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 10, 1878.*

COLLISIONS have occurred between Servian and Bulgarian forces along a short [? piece of the] Widdin frontier, as previously reported; but, for the moment, everything there is again quiet.

Russian Minister and Servian Government are, therefore, very anxious that Boundary Commission should, if possible, mark this part of the frontier before it ceases its work for the winter. Accordingly, I have telegraphed in this sense to Her Majesty's Commissioner.

No. 227.

[Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 10, at night.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 10, 1878.*

ORDERS have been issued for the disbandment on the 17th instant of the whole of the Servian militia, with the exception of one brigade.

No. 228.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 900.)
St. Petersburgh, November 2, 1878.

My Lord,

THE French Circular despatch to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin on the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier, was communicated a few days ago to the Imperial Government here by the French Chargé d'Affaires, and the substance of it was telegraphed to M. de Giers at Livadia.

The following reply has been telegraphed by M. de Giers for communication to Count Vieil-Castel, as a provisional answer:—

"Sans me prononcer d'une manière définitive, et en attendant le texte même de la Circulaire, le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg partage l'opinion de M. Waddington sur les motifs qui semblent exiger une démarche commune des Puissances en faveur de la Grèce, conformément aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin."

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 229.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 902. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 5, 1878.*

I AM informed that M. Ghika, the Acting Roumanian Agent at this Court, has rather suddenly left this for Livadia.

Since addressing to your Lordship my telegram of the 2nd instant I have learnt that M. Ghika has been called to Livadia by his uncle General Ghika, who has been lately appointed Roumanian Envoy at the Imperial Court, and has ostensibly gone to that residence to present his credentials to the Emperor.

The presence of General Ghika at Livadia is evidently connected with negotiations between the Russian and Roumanian Governments in regard to the transfer of the Dobrudscha, and the condition on which that province, now occupied by Russia, will be delivered over to Roumania.

The object of the Russian Government is undoubtedly to obtain from Roumania the right of passage for a Russian army either through Roumania or through the Dobrudscha, and, if I am rightly informed, the Imperial Government are further aiming at the conclusion of an offensive and defensive alliance with Roumania.

I am told that the Roumanian Government decline to grant the proposed right of passage for Russian troops through their territory on the ground that the Province of the Dobrudscha has been given to them by Europe, and that, consequently, they can enter into no arrangement of the nature proposed without the sanction of Europe.

Notwithstanding the hesitation and unwillingness of the Roumanian Government to accede to the Russian proposals, the experience of the past leads me to the conviction that their final decision will depend on the wishes and advice of Germany; and I have no doubt that in this instance, as on previous occasions, the influence of Prince Bismarck will be used in conformity with the wishes of the Russian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 230.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 909. Confidential.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 5, 1878.*

A FEW days ago one of my colleagues, a foreign Minister, asked me whether there was any truth in the report of a proposal on the part of Russia to the Austrian Government for the cession of the Bukovine to Roumania, in exchange for Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I replied that no such report had reached me, and that I attached no importance to it.

To-day another of my colleagues, a foreign Minister, showed me a confidential despatch he had received from his Government referring to the same report, and requesting to be informed whether there was any foundation for it.

I replied, as on the first occasion, that I had no information on the subject, and that I thought it very improbable that any such proposal had been addressed to the Austro-Hungarian Government.

The presence of General Ghika at Livadia causes much suspicion, and may possibly have given rise to this report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 231.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 1.)

(No. 914.)

St. Petersburgh, November 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship the Provisional Regulations for the Administration of the territory of Batoum which have been published in the "Official Gazette."

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of October $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

St. Pétersbourg, le 12 *Octobre*, 1878.

Règlements Temporaires pour l'Administration du Territoire de Batoum.

§ 1er. LE territoire de Batoum se compose de la partie du Sandjak du Lazistan réunie à l'Empire de Russie, en vertu du Traité de Berlin.

§ 2. Le territoire de Batoum fait partie de la circonscription militaire du Caucase et est soumis au Commandant-en-chef de l'armée du Caucase, tant au point de vue militaire qu'au point de vue civil.

§ 3. L'administration locale du territoire est concentrée dans la personne du Gouverneur Militaire de Batoum, qui jouit à l'égard des troupes cantonnées dans le territoire des mêmes droits que les Gouverneurs Militaires des territoires de l'Oural, de Tourgaï et autres, droits qui sont définis dans le Code Militaire, édition de 1849, tome iii (Articles 238, 239, 244, à 252 inclusivement et 255). L'administration locale se guidera d'après une instruction spéciale qui lui sera donnée par le Commandant-en-chef.

§ 4. Les droits et devoirs du Gouverneur Militaire, pour tout ce qui concerne l'administration de la population indigène, l'administration civile, et l'organisation locale, seront définis par une instruction spéciale donnée par le Commandant-en-chef.

§ 5. Le Gouverneur Militaire de Batoum a un adjoint, qui, en l'absence du Gouverneur ou sur son ordre, le remplace dans ses fonctions et préside le Tribunal Territorial.

§ 6. Sont attachés à la personne du Gouverneur Militaire de Batoum:—

(*a*) Une Chancellerie Militaire; et—

(*b*) Une Administration pour Affaires Militaires et Civiles Locales.

La composition de ces Bureaux est déterminée par les cadres temporaires spéciaux ci-joints.

§ 7. La ville de Batoum est considérée à titre de ville "munie d'un port." Toutes les affaires ayant trait à l'organisation de la ville et à l'administration de la population non-indigène du territoire sont soumises au Lieutenant du Caucase par le Gouverneur Militaire, qui les fait passer par l'Administration Centrale. Celle-ci est chargée de l'élaboration des règlements nécessaires pour l'administration de la ville de Batoum; jusqu'à la ratification de ces règlements, le Gouverneur Militaire et le Commandant du port de Batoum doivent se guider d'après les règlements existants pour le port de la ville de Pétrovsk (Annexe à l'Article 528, tome ii, deuxième partie du Code des Lois, édition de l'année 1857, deuxième continuation); quant à la composition de l'administration de la police, elle est déterminée par les cadres temporaires ci-joints.

§ 8. Au point de vue administratif, le territoire de Batoum se divise comme suit: la ville de Batoum et trois arrondissements qui se composent chacun de trois Cantons, savoir:—

(*a*) *Arrondissement de Batoum.*—Cantons de la Kintrischa, de Batoum, et de Goni.

(*b*) *Arrondissement d'Artvin.*—Cantons d'Artvin, d'Ardanoutsch, et de Schevschéto-Imerhow; et—

(*c*) *Arrondissement d'Adjar.*—Cantons de Verkhnié-Adjar, Nijni-Adjar, et de Matchikhel.

§ 9. Les droits et devoirs des Chefs d'arrondissement et de quartier seront définis par une instruction qui doit être élaborée par le Gouverneur Militaire de Batoum et soumise à la ratification du Commandant-en-chef de l'armée.

§ 10. Les différentes fonctions des Administrations Militaires pour la population indigène peuvent être remplies, surtout pour ce qui est des emplois subalternes, par les indigènes du territoire de Batoum. Le choix de ces fonctionnaires est fait par le Gouverneur Militaire, qui soumet ses candidats à l'approbation du Commandant-en-chef de l'armée.

§ 11. Les indigènes du territoire de Batoum sont jugés d'après les lois générales de l'Empire: pour crimes d'Etat, résistance à main armée aux autorités, vol d'effets appartenant à la Couronne, détérioration des télégraphes et assassinats avec préméditation; tous les autres crimes et délits, ainsi que les affaires civiles, sont jugés par les Tribunaux populaires (Medjliss).

§ 12. Il sera fondé: six medjliss dans les quartiers où il n'y a pas de medjliss d'arrondissement, trois medjliss d'arrondissement—une dans chaque arrondissement—une medjliss territoriale à Batoum et une medjliss municipale à Artvin.

§ 13. La composition des medjliss est définie par des cadres spéciaux.

§ 14. La population non-indigène de la ville et du territoire de Batoum n'est pas justiciable des Tribunaux populaires. L'installation dans le territoire de Tribunaux, conformes aux règlements judiciaires du 19 Octobre, 1865, est du ressort de l'Administration Centrale du Lieutenant du Caucase.

§ 15. Il est formé dans chacun des arrondissements du territoire de Batoum une sotnia de milice locale composée de volontaires, dont peuvent faire partie des individus originaires d'autres localités, mais à condition que le nombre de ceux-ci ne dépasse pas un tiers du chiffre total de la sotnia. Il est formé en outre, aux mêmes conditions, une sotnia de milice à cheval pour toute l'étendue du territoire de Batoum.

Première Observation.—Les règlements et les cadres de la milice locale doivent être dressés par le Gouverneur Militaire de Batoum, en prenant pour base les règlements et les cadres de la milice temporaire. Ils seront soumis à la ratification du Commandant-en-chef de l'armée.

Deuxième Observation.—Dès que la milice locale sera formée, les zaptiés à cheval et à pied devront être licenciés, et les devoirs qui leur incombent seront remplis par la milice locale.

§ 16. Les impôts et taxes sont prélevés sur tout le territoire dans la même proportion que sous l'administration Turque. Chaque fois que le Gouverneur Militaire voudra y introduire des changements ou les alléger, il en référera au Commandant-en-chef de l'armée.

No. 232.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 910.)

St. Petersburgh, November 6, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 868, of the 20th ultimo, inclosing copies of two telegrams received from M. de Giers, in reply to the communication I had addressed to his Excellency, in conformity with the instructions of your Lordship's telegrams of the 16th ultimo, I have now the honour to inclose an extract from a letter addressed to Mr. Plunkett by M. Mehnikoff, in which he is instructed by M. de Giers to communicate further explanations in regard to the measures taken by the Imperial Commissioner in Bulgaria, which had attracted the attention of the Cabinet of London, and which had given rise to the communication I had addressed to his Excellency.

M. de Giers states that from the latest information supplied by Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff no tithes had been farmed, and that the moneys transmitted to Sofia were destined to cover the expenses of the militia and of the army of occupation in Roumelia. At that period (his Excellency states) the financial administration of the country was still in the hands of the Russian authorities, and the Imperial Commissioner had the right of disposing of the revenue of the province.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 232.

M. Melnikoff to Mr. Plunkett.

Le 5 Novembre, 1878.

(Extrait.)

POUR faire suite à ma lettre du $\frac{7}{19}$ Octobre, j'ai l'honneur de vous communiquer, d'ordre de son Excellence M. le Gérant du Ministère des Affaires Etrangères les éclaircissements suivants relativement aux mesures prises par le Commissaire Impérial en Bulgarie, qui ont attiré l'attention du Cabinet de Londres, et qui sont fait l'objet d'une de vos dernières communications.

Il appert des renseignements fournis en dernier lieu par le Prince Dondoukoff qu'aucun revenu n'a été affermé et que les sommes envoyées à Sophia ont été destinées à nous dédommager pour l'entretien de la milice et du corps d'occupation en Roumélie. A cette époque l'administration financière du pays se trouvait encore entre les mains de nos autorités, et notre Commissaire avait le droit de disposer des revenus de la province.

No. 233.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 920.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, November 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an extract from a letter addressed to Mr. Plunkett by M. Melnikoff, in which he states he is instructed by M. de Giers, in acknowledging the receipt of my note and letter of the 24th ultimo (copies of which were inclosed in my despatches No. 887 and 888 of same date), to state that he would reply to them, and that in the meantime he had applied to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to verify the allegations of the Earl of Donoughmore.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 233.

M. Melnikoff to Mr. Plunkett.

Le 5 Novembre, 1878.

(Extrait.)

JE viens de recevoir de son Excellence M. de Giers une lettre dans laquelle il me prie, en outre, de vous informer qu'il a exactement reçu la note ainsi que la lettre de son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur et qu'il ne manquera pas à y répondre. Il m'a chargé en même temps de vous donner l'assurance formelle et positive que nous sommes loin de l'idée d'enfreindre le Traité de Berlin, mais que nous nous donnons toutes les peines du monde pour le faire strictement exécuter par la Porte.

Ayant pris connaissance du contenu de la note de M. l'Ambassadeur, M. de Giers s'est adressé à notre Ambassadeur à Constantinople pour vérifier les allégations du Comte de Donoughmore.

No. 234.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 921.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, November 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship a précis by Mr. Stephen of an article from the "Golos" referring to the danger to which the Russian army south of the Balkan might be exposed, and stating that on this account it would be unsafe to allow Roumania to occupy the Dobrudscha so long as a Russian soldier remains south of the Danube.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 234.

Substance of Article in the "Golos" of November 4, 1878.

THE "Golos" of the 4th November, discussing the military preparations which the Turks are reported to be making, remarks that attention should be at once drawn to the position of the Russian army in the Balkan Peninsula. There are, it says, 40,000 to 50,000 Turkish soldiers to the south-west of Sofia who, in the event of the renewal of the war, would be supported by 150,000 men belonging to the Albanian League. Thus 200,000 men, without counting the Austrian troops in Bosnia and Herzegovina, would be opposed to the right flank of the Russian army, and as any action on the part of Montenegro or Servia would be paralyzed by the presence of 150,000 Austrians in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the position of the Russian Balkan army would become a very perilous one.

Military laws direct that all calculations should be founded on the possibility of the worst happening, and consequently, says the "Golos," it would be extremely risky to allow Roumania to occupy the Dobrudscha at present.

"We cannot believe," concludes the article, "in the truth of the rumour that the Roumanian troops are to occupy the Dobrudscha so long as a single Russian soldier is south of the Danube."

No. 235.

Mr. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, November 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that, agreeably to the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1 of the 17th October, 1878, I arrived at Constantinople on the 26th October, and placed myself in communication with Her Majesty's Ambassador.

Sir Henry Layard informed me that His Majesty the Sultan wished to see me in regard to the Financial Commission which is now being formed under the Presidency of Hairéddin Pasha.

I had an audience of His Majesty on the 30th October, when the Sultan expressed his intention of nominating me Vice-President of the Commission.

I offered no objection to this arrangement, believing that in occupying this position on the Commission, I should acquire special facilities for obtaining from the Ministry of Finance, and otherwise, information relating to the public accounts and finances of Turkey, and that in serving on this Commission, I should be acting agreeably to the wishes of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. HARRISON.

No. 236.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 11.)

(No. 605.)

My Lord,

Berlin, November 8, 1878.

THE French Circular of the 21st October respecting Greece has produced a favourable impression here, and I am told by the Minister for Foreign Affairs that the German Government have decided to accept the proposal of the French Government to co-operate with the signatory Powers with a view to facilitating the execution of the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 237.

Colonel Sibornе to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 34.) *Galatz, November 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch No. 6 of the 2nd instant, and its inclosure, notifying the intention of the Roumanian Government to appoint a member of the Danube Commission.

It was at first asserted that M. Cogalniceano, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, would be thus designated, and with the expectation that his position as Minister of the country in which the Commission exercises its functions would insure his nomination as President, and that, on his hearing that this pretension would be contested, he withdrew his candidature.

M. Rescano, Prefet of Galatz, has now been appointed, and presented his full powers to-day, but he was not present at the opening of the Autumn General Meeting, which took place on the 5th instant.

On that occasion, as "Doyen" of the Commission, I presented the Ottoman Delegate, Constantin, Caratheodory Effendi, brother of the Turkish Plenipotentiary at the Berlin Congress, to the other members, as President during the present Session, in virtue of the existing Regulation, but with the understanding that, owing to the altered state of affairs, the question of the future Presidency would be discussed and decided upon by the Commission.

The absence of the Roumanian Delegate on the 5th instant had the fortunate effect of preventing a dispute as to the relative pretensions of himself and of the Turkish Delegate to this position, which would most probably have resulted in the voting of the "Doyen" to the chair, to the exclusion of both candidates.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. C. SIBORNE, *Colonel, R.E.,*
British Commissioner on Danube.

No. 238.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 11, 1878, 7 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 262, telegram from Layard No. 972 of the 4th November is latest record we have received of Turkish assurances that steps are being taken to evacuate Podgoritza and Spuz. For some time back Layard has made constant representations either to Porte or the Sultan in this sense, and has received similar answers.

No. 239.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 11, 1878, 7·15 A.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 981, no good can come of remonstrances of this kind from Porte till Montenegrin frontier is evacuated. It will merely expose itself to a harsh rejoinder from Russia and Germany, and possibly from others.

No. 240.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(No. 984.) *Therapia, November 10, 1878.*

(Telegraphic.)

CONSUL BLUNT informs me that official telegram from Salonica reports dispersion by Turkish troops of some individual bands of Bulgarian insurgents between Demir Hissar and Petrovich, and also order is re-established in those two.

No. 241.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Tehran, November 11, 1878.*

THE Persian authorities report from Astrabad that the Krasnovodsk troops have returned there, and that General Lamakin, having provided the detachment at that place with winter supplies, and left a battalion at Chikislar, has gone to Tiflis.

(Communicated to India.)

No. 242.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 273.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 11, 1878, 1·15 P.M.*

TURKISH Ambassador has received instructions to ask Count Andrassy confidentially what he thinks of declarations of Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, that a definitive Treaty of Peace must be concluded between Turkey and Russia before the Ottoman territory is evacuated.

He will go in a few days to Pesth to execute these instructions, and I have told him that the nature of the language he may expect to hear from Count Andrassy will probably greatly depend upon what he can tell him about Podgoritza.

No. 243.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 11.)

(Telegraphic.) *Buda-Pesth, November 11, 1878, 10·30 A.M.*

IN the course of his speech to the delegations yesterday, the Emperor said that the Berlin Congress had ,succeeded in averting the imminent danger of a European war, and that the logical and complete execution of the Treaty of Berlin for which his Government would act with every regard to stipulations, is calculated to prevent the return of dangers which threatened the peace of Europe and the national interests. His Majesty had undertaken the occupation and administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina on the proposal of all the Powers. He regretted that this could not be effected peaceably, congratulated the delegations on the conduct and success of the army of occupation, and said that it was now the effort of the Government to settle the method in which the cost of the undertaking should be met, and to accelerate the arrival of the moment when the resources of provinces themselves should suffice for their administration. The hope that this may be realized appears to be well founded, inasmuch as the relations with all the Powers continue to be the best. The speech was only published here this morning.

No. 244.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 11, 1878, 3·55 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 46 of the 8th instant, the words of the Treaty are not explicit; but I think the safer interpretation is that the Porte should give to the Commission an opportunity of offering their opinion on any project of organization drawn up for Crete. If the Porte does so, as I hope it will, I have to instruct you to vote for approving Porte's proposal, which is acceptable to the population, and seems reasonable. There can be no objection to advising the substitution of the word "non-Mussulman" for "Christian," to meet case of the Jews raised by you.

If the Porte does not lay the project before you, which I should regret, it is better to leave the matter to the Ambassadors to deal with.

No. 245.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 572.)

Sir. *Foreign Office, November* 11, 1878.

WITH reference to the statement made by your Excellency in your telegram of the 9th instant, that it is of the utmost importance that Count Andrassy, when he explains his foreign policy to the Delegations, should be able to tell them that steps are being taken for the early evacuation of Podgoritza, I have to observe that the latest record received by Her Majesty's Government of the assurances of the Turkish Government on this point is contained in the telegram from Sir H. Layard of the 4th instant (No. 972), copy of which you have received.

You are aware that for some time back his Excellency has made constant representations in this sense, either to the Porte or to the Sultan, and that the replies which he has received have always been similar to that which he has recorded in the quoted telegram.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 246.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(*Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, November* 11.)

Sublime Porte, Ministère des Affaires Etrangères, le 31 *Octobre*, 1878.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

DES informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte ayant représenté plusieurs districts de la Macédoine comme travaillés par des bandes Bulgares formées dans des localités occupées par les troupes Russes, j'ai dû signaler ces entreprises insurrectionnelles à l'Ambassadeur de Russie à Constantinople.

Dans la réponse, son Excellence le Prince Labanoff révoque en doute les renseignements reçus à ce sujet par le Gouvernement Impérial, et ajoute que les autorités Russes ne toléreraient pas que des bandes armées se formassent dans les pays occupés par elles en vue d'envahir la Macédoine.

Nous faisons prendre sur les lieux mêmes des renseignements précis à cet égard. En attendant, je crois devoir vous transmettre ci-joint en copie, pour votre information personnelle, les deux notes échangées sur cette affaire entre la Sublime Porte et l'Ambassade de Russie, ainsi qu'une seconde note que je viens d'adresser au Prince Labanoff à propos de quelques nouveaux méfaits commis au préjudice des populations Musulmanes de Dimotika par une bande Gréco-Bulgare.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 1 in No. 246.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Labanoff.

Le 24 *Octobre*, 1878.

JE crois devoir signaler immédiatement à votre Excellence les entreprises insurrectionnelles qui viennent de se produire de la part de bandes Bulgares dans plusieurs districts de la Macédoine, et qui empruntent une très-grande gravité aux circonstances dans lesquelles ces agressions ont eu lieu.

Le bourg de Yénikeui, sur la Rivière Stemnitsa, et six villages Musulmans avoisinants, ont été détruits par une bande de 2,000 Bulgares venus des frontières de la Bulgarie. Ils menacent du même sort les districts de Melnik, de Petritch et de Timour, ainsi que la ville de Gradichnitcha.

Des informations puisées aux sources les plus sûres nous autorisent à affirmer que cette bande, aussi bien que celles qui s'apprêtent encore à envahir le pays, ont été formées, armées, et exercées au sud de la Bulgarie, c'est-à-dire, dans un pays occupé par les troupes Russes et administré par des autorités Russes. La facilité avec laquelle ces préparatifs insurrectionnels s'opèrent dans le pays et notamment entre Sophia, Kustendil, et Djuma, sera certainement considérée par votre Excellence comme une

circonstance d'une haute gravité, qui engage la responsabilité des autorités Impériales Russes qui ont la garde du pays et qui paraissent en cette occasion avoir agi contrairement aux intentions du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et aux instructions qu'elles ont dû recevoir.

La Sublime Porte est d'ailleurs convaincue que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie ne tolérera pas que le territoire de la Bulgarie ou toute autre localité occupée par les troupes Russes soit le foyer d'intrigues subversives et le centre de préparatifs insurrectionnels dirigés contre l'autorité légitime de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Dans cette conviction, je dois me borner à signaler les faits à votre Excellence, avec la certitude qu'ils seront immédiatement réprimés et que des mesures énergiques seront prises par les autorités Russes pour étouffer le mal à sa source même, et prévenir ainsi les conséquences funestes du plan révolutionnaire qui vient de nous être révélé par un commencement d'exécution.

Inclosure 2 in No. 246.

Prince Labanoff to Safvet Pasha.

Le 26 *Octobre*, 1878.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir la note par laquelle votre Altesse m'informe que des bandes Bulgares, destinées à faire des invasions en Macédoine, s'organisent dans les pays occupés par l'armée Impériale Russe, et administrés par les autorités Russes.

Ayant aussitôt demandé par télégraphe des renseignements à ce sujet à M. le Commandant-en-chef, j'ai reçu la réponse qu'il n'avait aucune connaissance du fait que vous m'avez signalé, et j'ai tout lieu de croire que les renseignements parvenus à la Sublime Porte ne sont pas exacts, du moins en ce qui concerne la provenance et l'organisation de ces bandes.

Le Gouvernement Impérial est, d'ailleurs, décidé à ne pas tolérer que des bandes armées se forment dans les pays occupés par les troupes Russes pour envahir la Macédoine. J'ai été autorisé à en donner l'assurance formelle à votre Excellence, et je m'empresse de remplir ce devoir.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) LABANOFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 246.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Labanoff.

Le 29 *Octobre*, 1878.

JE regrette d'avoir à entretenir votre Excellence de nouveaux méfaits commis au préjudice des populations Musulmanes. Cette fois c'est le district de Démotica qui a été le théâtre des tristes exploits d'une bande Gréco-Bulgare. Voici, d'ailleurs, les informations télégraphiques que nous venons de recevoir à ce sujet.

Le Jeudi 24 courant, à 2 heures du matin (h. T.), une razzia a été opérée dans le village de Démir-Euren, à huit heures de distance de Dimotika, par une bande de 500 hommes, composée de Grecs du village de Sofoulou et de Bulgares de Lafadjik, de Baijuk-Derbend, &c. Les agresseurs ont commencé par faire main basse sur tout ce qu'ils ont trouvé sur leur passage; ils ont enlevé 120 bœufs environ, plus de 500 moutons, et vingt-cinq mulets; ils ont tiré sur les pâtres Hussein et Moustafa sans pouvoir les atteindre, et les ont poursuivis jusqu'au village.

Arrivés là ils ont organisé, pour ainsi dire, une attaque en règle, soutenue par des fusils Martini.

Effrayés par le sort dont ils étaient menacés, les habitants ont cherché leur salut dans la fuite. Mais ils n'eurent pas plus tôt quitté le village que les assaillants y ont pénétré, l'ont mis à sac, et ont commis partout des dégats considérables. Ils ont tué, après les avoir garottés, les nommés Halil Oglou Ala, Cara Hussen, Hodja Oglou Mehemmed, Tatar Oglou Ahmed, et Atech Mehemmed, tout en incendiant les habitations des trois derniers.

Puis ils se sont lancés à la poursuite des fugitifs, et en ont attrapé quelques-uns; ils ont assassiné trois femmes et ont brûlé une quatrième moyennant des allumettes chimiques après l'avoir égorgée.

On a remarqué la présence d'une vingtaine de Cosaques parmi les malfaiteurs. On va jusqu'à affirmer que l'attaque a été dirigée au son de trompettes contre Démir-Euren, qui a dû recevoir quelques milliers de balles, à en juger par les étuis de cartouches vides qu'on rencontre encore dans les rues. Une autre particularité digne d'attention est que Sofoulou, village occupé par les troupes Russes, récèle le bétail enlevé à Démir-Euren.

En m'empressant de porter ce qui précède à la connaissance de votre Excellence, j'ai la conviction qu'elle voudra bien, dans ses sentiments d'équité, admettre la nécessité d'une justice rigoureuse. A cet effet il importe d'ouvrir, par les soins des deux autorités, une enquête sévère, accompagnée des mesures les plus efficaces et les plus énergiques, pour mettre fin à cet état de choses déplorable, dont la continuation, au grand préjudice des populations Musulmanes, est principalement due à la non-occupation de ces localités par les autorités civiles et militaires Ottomanes. Votre Excellence sait que ce sont les quelques paroles de menace proférées imprudemment par certains individus, et les deux actes de meurtre commis dans un village qu'avaient provoqué émigration d'un grand nombre de Bulgares dans la Principauté, quel serait le châtiment à infliger à la population Musulmane si elle avait commis la centième partie de ce que les Bulgares se permettent de faire impunément contre elle à tout moment.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 247.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, November 12.)

(Confidentielle.) *Constantinople, le 7 Novembre*, 1878.

VOUS devez savoir qu'il y a environ deux mois la Russie a présenté à la Sublime Porte un Projet de Traité de Paix entre les deux Puissances. Voici en substance les principaux Articles de ce Projet:—

1. Confirmation du Traité de Berlin et des stipulations spéciales des Préliminaires de San Stéfano, non abrogées ou modifiées par le même Traité.

2. Confirmation de l'Article XIX du Traité de San Stéfano relatif à l'indemnité de guerre, et de l'Article XIII concernant les frais destinés au rétablissement de la navigabilité de Soulina et le dédommagement des particuliers.

3. Maintien de la clause de l'Article XXV de l'Acte de San Stéfano concernant l'évacuation complète des localités qui doivent être restituées à la Sublime Porte.

La Sublime Porte, considérant le Traité de Berlin comme un Traité Définitif de Paix, et confirmant le Traité de Paris, hésite à négocier et à conclure celui qui lui est proposé par la Russie, mais le Prince Labanoff objecte que l'œuvre de Berlin n'ayant réglé que les questions se rattachant à l'ordre Européen, a laissé en suspens plusieurs points contenus dans les Préliminaires de San Stéfano.

L'Ambassadeur de Russie m'a dit, entre autres, que tant que la paix définitive n'est pas rétablie par le Traité qui nous est proposé, l'Empereur de Russie ne peut proclamer à ses peuples le rétablissement de la paix entre les deux Etats. La Russie invoque le même raisonnement pour retarder la retraite de ses troupes des localités occupées en dehors de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale, et qui, aux termes de l'Acte de San Stéfano devaient être évacuées trois mois après la conclusion de la paix définitive.

Veuillez soumettre ce qui précède, confidentiellement et officieusement à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et me faire connaître son opinion tant sur la demande de la Russie de conclure un Traité de Paix Définitif avec nous, que sur les points y contenus.

No. 248.

Sir A. Paget the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 178.) [B.B.] *Rome, November 8*, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith translation of a notice, evidently inserted by official authority, which appeared in this morning's "Diritto," relative to a letter

signed Mr. McColl, which appeared in the "Times" of the 2nd instant, stating, with reference to Sir A. Layard's despatch bearing date of the 28th August, inclosing the Report of the Rhodope Commission, that at that time "the Report bore the signatures of the Turkish, English, French, and Italian Commissioners, but that the Italian Commissioner soon afterwards withdrew his signature, because he did not think the evidence trustworthy," &c.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No 248.

Extract from the "Diritto" of November 9, 1878.

(Translation.)

THE "Times" of the 2nd instant publishes a letter from a certain Mr. McColl, who asserts that when Sir A. Layard, the British Ambassador at Constantinople, wrote his despatch of the 28th August respecting the Rhodope Commission, which was among those lately presented to the British Parliament, the Report of the Commission bore the signatures of the Delegates of Turkey, England, France, and Italy, but that very shortly afterwards the Italian Delegate withdrew his, so that the Report is now only signed by the Delegates of Turkey, England, and France.

We have not the least idea who may be this Mr. McColl who pretends to be thus behind the scenes.

Still we wonder that the "Times" and other English journals should so easily give credence to a story which the despatches published by Her Majesty's Government prove to be entirely fictitious. We have only to read the letter which Mr. Fawcett, the British Delegate, addressed, together with his final Report, to his Ambassador, and which the latter forwarded to his Government with the despatch above referred to. (*Vide* "Blue Book," p. 107.) Mr. Fawcett, in reporting on the last meeting of the Commission, and after stating that the Delegates of Russia, Germany, and Austria-Hungary had severally refused to attach their respective signatures to the Report, adds that "the Delegates of the Sublime Porte, of Italy, and France agreed with him as to the advisability of drawing up an identic Report to be addressed by each individually to their respective heads of Missions at Constantinople."

It is therefore shown by the British Delegate himself that it is not a fact that the Italian Delegate withdrew his signature, and it is equally untrue that the Report published in the "Blue Book" bears only the signatures of the three Delegates of England, France, and Turkey.

The truth of the matter really is that the Report published in the "Blue Book" bears the signature of the British Delegate alone, the idea being that the Report should come from one person only. But Reports in exactly similar terms were presented to the heads of the various Missions, not only by the Delegates of France and Turkey, but also by the Italian Delegate, who, following the example of his colleagues, addressed a letter to the head of the Mission at Constantinople, likewise conceived (as had been agreed on between the four Delegates) in terms precisely similar to those of Mr. Fawcett's letter and Report which appear in the "Blue Book."

No. 249.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 12.)

(Secret.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, November 11*, 1878.

WITH reference to my letter of the 7th instant I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell, dated the 31st ultimo, respecting the Turkish forces for the defence of Bulair, and at Dédéagatch and Rodosto.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 249.

Vice-Admiral Sir J. Commerell to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Confidential.)

"*Salamis*," *at Gallipoli, October* 31, 1878.

Sir,

IN continuation of my Confidential letter of yesterday, I have the honour to report, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, that I had a long interview to-day with both Reschid and Redjib Pashas, the present and late Generals in command at Bulaïr—Reschid having recently superseded Redjib, to enable the latter to attend the Court-martial on Suleiman Pasha at Constantinople.

2. I pointed out to Reschid Pasha that, in my opinion, there would be danger at present of his centre being pierced, and the wings of his extended line being cut off, if the Russians made a sudden advance by way of Keshan; and, especially, that the four battalions at Enos and Dédéagatch would have to retreat on Bulaïr by sea; and I advised his giving orders to the latter effect, which I believe will be accordingly done.

3. There are at the present moment 10,000 men at the Lines, and about 3,000 more at Charduck and Lanepsaki, across the Straits, employed in cutting firewood for the winter. The rest of the army are on the line between Dédéagatch and Rodosto, in brigades of about two battalions each. They have only a small body of cavalry, and no guns, the latter remaining in detached forts at Bulaïr.

4. I had a long conversation in private with Reschid Pasha, the Civil Governor, a man of great force of character and intelligence, and I am certain of receiving from him the first intelligence of any movement on the part of the Russians. He has many spies in all parts of the country, and I have hitherto found his information reliable. He views with me the danger of this extended line, and will impress it on the military Commander as occasion occurs, and he can do so with [?]. (*Sic* in original.)

5. It seems to me a mistake—the weakening of the Bulaïr army to such an extent, and I should have thought that Tchorlu, where there are now 8,000 men, might have well taken care of Rodosto.

6. The Russians asked permission, I hear, for three officers to remain at Kadikoi, close to the River Kavach, to settle accounts with the villagers, but as these officers were looked upon as spies, which no doubt they were, the request was very properly refused.

7. From all I can learn, Reschid Pasha, who was a Major-General on the Lom, is a capable man, and means well.

8. The troops, I am happy to say, are much better fed now than formerly, and the large hospital commenced within the last few months has made great progress towards completion. I went over it, and found it contained about 700 soldiers, but few very serious cases.

9. Captain Heneage will be in constant communication with the officials, and will let me know at once of any suspicious movement.

I return to Artaki in the "Salamis" to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

No. 250.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 50.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November* 11, 1878.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL having written to say that orders had been given, it was arranged that chest and archives should be handed over at 10 A.M. One application being [made] at the hour fixed to M. Geshoff, the Cashier, he declared that he had received no orders. Meanwhile, this morning some Bulgarian police told the Bulgarian shopkeepers in the Bazaar to shut up their shops and take their arms as there would be a fight. This frightened the Greek and other shopkeepers, who shut up theirs also. Geshoff, I am told, had a meeting of the Bulgarians, telling them they must shed the last drop of their blood to prevent our taking the chest, which means Government of province. Later police threatened to fine those who did not open their shops.

No. 251.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury,—(*Received November* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November* 12, 1878.

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has expressed to Turkish Minister desire to have a good understanding between Greece and Turkey to combat Slavs, but gave him to understand, at the same time, that joint action should be preceded by concessions of territory to make such action available. Photiades Bey told him that Porte was disposed to make some concessions, but that united action of the two countries should precede concessions.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 252.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November* 11, 1878.

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires in London has reported that your Lordship agrees to the French proposal of mediation, but had expressed the wish for short delay to arrange revision of [demands ?]. This Government has received no intelligence from Paris on the subject. Minister for Foreign Affairs says necessity to protect Hellenic element in Macedonia is pressing.

No. 253.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 985.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 11, 1878.

MIDHAT PASHA is named Governor-General of Syria. Sultan wishes [Alexander] Pasha to be Governor of Creto. Said Pasha transposed from Angora to Kustembouli, the province in which Sultan told me he wished new revenue system to be introduced.

No. 254.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 986. Very Confidential.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 11, 1878.

GRAND VIZIER informs me that when he complained to Russian Ambassador of the large concentration of Russian troops to south of Balkans as contrary to Treaty of Berlin. Russian Ambassador replied that Russia had fulfilled the Treaty, as only 50,000 were under orders of Prince Dondoukoff; the remaining 150,000 men formed the army of occupation which Russia was entitled to maintain under Treaty of San Stefano until a definitive Treaty of Peace had been signed.

No. 255.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 12.)

(No. 987.)

(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 11, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 981, Russian Ambassador has replied to note of Porte by denying facts, and accusing Mussulmans of having first attacked Bulgarians. He invites Porte to make inquiries upon the spot, in order to ascertain the truth, but states that under the XXVIth Article of Treaty of San Stefano it is precluded from doing so in territory occupied by Russian troops. As some of the

villages alleged to have been destroyed are within Russian lines, full inquiries cannot consequently be made, but Porte proposes sending two Commissioners.

No. 256.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 988.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 11, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 9th instant, Grand Vizier tells me that delimitation of frontier beginning from Batoum is to commence at once. He would be very glad if British Commissioner were present.

I am informed that there are some positions of considerable importance which Russia will claim, but to which she is not entitled by the frontier line as defined by the Treaty of Berlin.

Town of Khotour will at once be given to Persia.

No. 257.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 989. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 11, 1878.*

COUNCIL of Ministers decided yesterday that negotiations should be at once entered into with Greece for rectification of frontiers. Grand Vizier says it would be quite impossible to agree to the line suggested by Congress, and that rather than do so the Porte would bear all the consequences of a refusal, but it might consent to another line, and Grand Vizier expressed an earnest hope that a proposal entailing less sacrifices on Turkey would be supported by Her Majesty's Government.

As the decision of the Council has not been yet accepted by the Sultan, his Highness begs that this information may be considered a [secret?].

No. 258.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 990.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 11, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Mr. Calvert, Philippopolis, dated yesterday:—

"Last news from Macedonia is that a battle took place last week near Novrokop. Turks are said to have lost [?] 1,700 men. The insurgent forces now amount, I am informed, to 20,000 men, of whom 2,000 are Russians, commanded by fifty Russian officers.

"Enrolment of volunteers is still going on at Sistova on the Danube, and other towns of Bulgaria where there is no European Consul.

"There is great agitation among Bulgarians here to-day. A protest is being signed by them expressing determination to resist assumption of Financial Administration."

No. 259.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 184.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1878.*

OFFICIAL answer from M. de Giers announces complete adhesion of Imperial Government to proposal of French Circular concerning Turco-Greek frontier rectification. Instructions have been sent to Russian Ambassador at Constantinople in conformity therewith.

No. 260.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of the 10th instant, I find on further inquiry that it is the proper direction of the old boundary of the Principality at Veliki-Izvor which has led to differences between Servian and the Russian and Bulgarian authorities. It appears that these differences date from the time of the Turkish supremacy.

Under the circumstances, I think matter may be left to be settled between interested parties themselves.

Her Majesty's Commissioner is of opinion that the old frontier does not form part of the work of the Commission.

No. 261.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 12.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 12, 1878.*

THE Treasury Chest, containing about 10,000*l.* Turkish, has been handed over to a Director-General named by Commission.

No. 262.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 4th instant, I have received the following from Sir H. Layard, dated the 8th November. Please communicate it to Boundary Commissioner:—

"With reference to your telegram of the 6th instant, Porte has called upon the Servian Government to evacuate at once Turkish territory occupied by Servian troops. Turkish troops, I am assured, are ready to replace them."

No. 263.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 1290, if you see no objection, send Vice-Consul Biliotti from Trebizond to act temporarily at Diarbekir. His travelling expenses will be allowed.

No. 264.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 12, 1878, 7 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 989 of yesterday let me hear when you know what line the Turkish Council proposes for the new Greek frontier.

No. 265.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 12, 1878, 7·15 P.M.*

IS the Mr. Geshoff mentioned in your telegram No. 50 of yesterday the man whose life was saved by intercession of Her Majesty's Government?

No. 265*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1878.

IN sending your Excellency the following telegram from Mr. White, I have to state that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, Count Andrassy's views and intentions with respect to Russian demands from Roumania should be ascertained at once:—

[See No. 225.]

No. 266.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 574.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1878.

YOUR Excellency will see from the telegram from Mr. White, copy of which is inclosed,* that considerable alarm is felt by the Roumanian Government at the persistence of the Russians in claiming absolute military command of the Dobroudscha after its cession to Roumania, and that it is believed that Russia will even demand that she should retain certain fortresses. The Roumanian Government, though said to have refused to sign the Convention to this effect which has been proposed to them, are reported to be doubtful as to the amount of support they will receive in their resistance, and to be especially anxious as to the attitude of Austria.

I should wish your Excellency to take immediate steps to ascertain what are the views and intentions respecting the Russian demands entertained by Count Andrassy

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 267.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 574A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1878.

COUNT BEUST stated to-day, in the course of conversation, that the Russian Government had, in answering the communication of the French Government respecting Greece, spontaneously given a most distinct assurance of their intention to execute the Treaty of Berlin.

The French and German Ambassadors have also expressed to me their belief that this is sincerely the intention of the Emperor of Russia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 268.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 487 A. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1878.

THE German Ambassador asked me to-day in what position the question of Roumanian independence stood. I said that it had been recognized by Russia, Austria, and Italy, but not up to this time by England, France, or Germany. Her Majesty's Government were, however, desirous that the three Powers should now join in granting the recognition for the two following reasons:—In the first place, because a very strong pledge of obedience to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin had been given by a vote of the Roumanian Chambers, and by a subsequent Circular from the Roumanian Government; and in the second place, because there was a danger, if the

* No. 225.

Western Powers persisted in withholding recognition, that the Roumanian Government, having obtained the recognition of the Powers which most nearly concerned them, might treat the refusal of the Western Powers with entire disregard, and might make any subsequent advances on their part exceedingly difficult.

Count Münster said he believed that the German Government were now considering the question to which I have referred, and that he would make an immediate inquiry on the subject at Berlin.

I have since received from him a letter on this matter, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 269.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. J. M. Montefiore.

(Confidential.)

Dear Mr. Montefiore, *Foreign Office, November* 12, 1878.

A TELEGRAM has reached Lord Salisbury from Philippopolis suggesting that the Jewish communities in the cities of London, Paris, Vienna, Berlin, and Rome should make a formal application to the Russian Government that Jewish emigrants from Eastern Roumelia, and refugees in the province itself, should be allowed to return to their homes, their safety and the restoration of their property being guaranteed by the Russian authorities.

It is believed that unless something is done the winter will produce appalling distress and calamity among emigrants and refugees.

Lord Salisbury requests me to inform you of this telegram in case it may be considered advisable for the Alliance Israélite in England, and its branches abroad, or any other similar society, to take steps in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 270.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 87. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, October* 31, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that delegates have been once more summoned by telegraph to Prisrend from every town in the province, on behalf of the Albanian League, through Sheikh Mustafa, of Kalkandele, who has but recently returned from a mission to Constantinople.

At a meeting held this day by the Moslems of Scutari, it was decided to select to-morrow their deputy, and that, before dispatching him to Prisrend, his selection must be confirmed by the Vali.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 271.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 88. Political.)

My Lord, *Scutari, November* 2, 1878.

IN my despatch No. 83, Political, of the 22nd ultimo, I had the honour to furnish your Lordship with an account of the lead which was being taken by a certain Sheikh Mustafa, of Kalkandele, in Albanian affairs, and which had been somewhat thrown into confusion through the internal jealousies and dissensions of the League.

The Sheikh's act, announced by my telegram of the day before yesterday, has reanimated the failing hopes of the Mahommedan Albanians, as they look upon the summons for the reassembling of the League almost in the light of an order emanating

direct from the Sultan, the Sheikh having been careful to create the impression that he had returned from Constantinople invested with extraordinary powers.

So confident are the inhabitants of Scutari that the Turkish Government has inspired the renewal of their late organization, that they have delayed the election of their Delegate until they can ascertain from the Vali, who is absent at Cavaja, the candidate he would like to be chosen.

M. Lippich, my Austrian colleague, connects the recall to activity of the League with the concentration of troops in the district of Kossovo; and if, as he asserts, the occupation of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar has not been given up, but merely suspended, until the return of spring, the preparations for resistance may have the base he attributes to them.

From a confidential source I have learnt that the Seraskier has, within the last few days, called for an immediate estimate from the General commanding here of the quantity of ammunition which his force would require for twelve months' active service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 272.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 902.)
Paris, November 12, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY, in execution of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 739 of the 4th instant, I spoke to M. Waddington on the subject of the International Commission on the Ottoman Debts, the appointment of which was recommended at the Congress of Berlin.

I said to his Excellency that, in answer to a question put to you on his behalf by the Marquis d'Harcourt, your Lordship had desired me to inform him that Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that the actual work to be done by such a Commission would be much more likely to be accomplished effectually by the joint action of two or three Powers friendly to Turkey than by that of six, of whom at least two would be unfriendly to her.

I added, however, that I was at the same time instructed to say that Her Majesty's Government could not decline to act on such a Commission as that recommended by the Berlin Protocol of the 11th July, if it should be set up.

M. Waddington observed that he did not think that the French and English Governments would have any difficulty in coming to an understanding respecting this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 273.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No 903.)
Paris, November 12, 1878.

My Lord,

IN my immediately preceding despatch No. 902 of to-day I have informed your Lordship that, in obedience to your Lordship's orders, I communicated to M. Waddington the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to the International Commission on the Ottoman Debts proposed at the Congress of Berlin.

M. Waddington went on to speak of other Commissions relative to Turkish finances, namely, that to which, in response to an invitation from the Porte itself, the French Government had deputed M. Tricou, and the English Government, Mr. Harrison.

He told me that he had just had a conversation with M. Merier (or Mercier), a French gentleman, who had been selected by the Porte to be one of the members of the Commission. This gentleman was not connected with the French Government, nor, of course, under its orders; but M. Waddington had, nevertheless, thought it well to give him some advice.

He had specially called his attention to two questions, the Customs and the Vacoufs.

With regard to the first, he had pointed out that the Porte would probably derive great advantage from placing the administration of the Customs in the hands of Europeans. There might be great obstacles in the way of making over to Europeans the collection of internal taxes, but no such difficulties existed with respect to Customs duties, and the revenue as well as commerce might profit largely by the regularity and probity with which those duties might be collected under a European system.

With regard to the Vacoufs, M. Waddington had suggested that the development of the resources of Turkey would be very greatly promoted by throwing into the open market, and especially by offering to European capital, the vast quantity of land now held in mortmain by the Mosques and other religious foundations.

To these suggestions, M. Waddington had, he said, added a caution. He had begged that it might be remembered that this Commission was intended to examine the resources of the Porte and the means of increasing them, but that it did not belong to it to make arrangements respecting the Ottoman Loans and the foreign holders of these loans.

With respect to such arrangements, the French Government would not commit itself to an opinion; and it hoped that the members of the Commission would be equally reserved.

M. Waddington proceeded to tell me that he should give instructions in the same sense to M. Tricou, the official Delegate of the French Government in the Commission.

He observed to me, in conclusion, that an essential difference between the Commission of which we were now speaking and that contemplated in the Berlin Protocol, lay in the fact that the present Commission was to study the state of the Ottoman Finances generally, while the Commission proposed at Berlin was intended to concern itself solely with the interests of the bondholders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 274.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 904. Confidential.)
Paris, November 12, 1878.

My Lord,

M. WADDINGTON told me confidentially yesterday that he had received from all the Governments, except from that of Her Majesty, an unconditional assent to the proposal he had made that a simultaneous and identic representation should be addressed to the Porte on the Greek question.

M. Waddington added, however, that it appeared from a telegraphic report which he had just received from the Marquis d'Harcourt of an unofficial conversation with your Lordship, that the hesitation of Her Majesty's Government proceeded mainly from an expectation that the Porte would almost immediately make spontaneously a satisfactory communication to the Greek Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 275.

Count Münster to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(Private and Confidential.)
German Embassy, November 13, 1878.

Dear Lord Salisbury,

I GOT the answer in regard to the Roumanian question. My Government are still on the same standpoint, and think that we would give up a part of the resolutions of the Berlin Congress if we recognized a Government refusing to fulfil a clause of the Treaty, carried unanimously by all the members of the Congress, on purely humanitarian grounds. The Imperial Government think that we ought not to follow the example of the two neighbour States. France agrees with Germany, and Italy, although she had declared to be willing to recognize Roumania, has lately kept back

the credentials of the Italian Diplomatic Agent. I am instructed to tell you particularly how much the German Government wish to act conjointly with England in this matter, and hope that you will postpone the recognition.

Tell me, please, when you come to town, and when I can have the pleasure of seeing you.

Believe, &c.
(Signed) MÜNSTER.

No. 276.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 185.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, November 13, 1878.*

I LEARN from a reliable source that orders have been given to the Russian Military Commanders to hold their present positions until conclusion of separate definitive Treaty with Turkey, and that Russian Ambassadors at Constantinople has been instructed to notify this to the Porte.

The Russian army south of the Danube represents at the present moment an effective force of 140,000 infantry and 33,000 cavalry, without artillery and engineers. Further details by messenger.

No. 277.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November 12, 1878.*

NEGOTIATIONS with Russian Minister actively prosecuted. Ostensible conditions are possibly within the limits of the Treaty of Berlin, but the real purpose appears to be to give Russia military possession of Dobrudscha, inclusive of the Sulina mouth of the Danube and of Kustendjo.

No. 278.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 993)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 12, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 982, Servian Government has replied that it will be ready to evacuate Turkish territory as soon as entire frontier-line is settled, which, if the weather continues fine, will be in about twelve days.

No. 279.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 994.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 12, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram has been received from Consul Blunt, dated Larissa, to-day:—

"Two Turkish detachments attacked on 9th a large band of bandits near Greek frontier, captured its Chief and eighteen of his followers, besides 1,200 sheep and 100 head of cattle and six horses which they had lifted from villages in Thessaly. Remainder of band took refuge in Greece. Six battalions of infantry are expected at Salonica from Constantinople.

No. 280.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 995.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 12, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs two telegrams from Count Andrassy. He first states that Austria is disposed to support Turkey energetically in the question of evacuation of Eastern Roumelia, and of other Turkish territories occupied by Russian army, but requires a moral basis in order to do so. Porte should therefore conclude a Convention relative to the mixed garrisons in district of Novi-Bazar to prove the good relations existing between it and Austria, and in order to enable her to aid Porte in obtaining the execution of the other Articles of the Treaty of Berlin.

It is not a question of immediate [? advance] of Austria into the district, but of establishing the fact that the Porte places no obstacle in the way of execution of Treaty of Berlin, and that the two Governments recognize the identity of their interests in that direction.

The second telegram states that as soon as Austria considers it necessary to have garrisons in common with Turkey in the district of Novi-Bazar, in conformity with Treaty, and to obtain in the common interests the political and military objects which the European Governments had in view, the Porte [? Austria] will hasten to renew negotiations with Austria [? the Porte] [? in order to] arrive at a definite arrangement upon the basis of [? communications] which previously took place between the two Cabinets.

No. 281.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 13.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 12, 1878.*

MR. CALVERT has sent to-day from here, without my consent, an interpreter whom I had told him to engage for me.

Unless he is instructed to consult me on matters connected with my mission, it is impossible for me to carry it on.

No. 282.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1878, 2·50 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 988 of yesterday, ask Colonel Home whether one of the boundary officers now employed in European Turkey can be spared to attend Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers between Russia and Turkey in Asia; he should accompany the Commission either officially or unofficially, and must be officially present during the demarkation of the line of Alashkerd.

No. 283.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 13, 1878, 6·25 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 983, I have no objection to offer to Mr. Malet's proposed visit to Syria.

It might be useful if he went viâ Cyprus, and endeavoured to arrange Cadi and land questions with Wolseley.

No. 284.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1402.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1878.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency states in your telegram of the 11th instant that the delimitation of the Asiatic frontier of Turkey, in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, is to commence at once, beginning from Batoum, and that the Grand Vizier has expressed a desire that a British Commissioner should be present.

I have in consequence requested you to inquire of Colonel Home whether one of the officers now employed in the demarcation of frontiers in European Turkey could not be detailed for the duty of attending the Asiatic Frontier Commission.

It would be desirable that, if practicable, the officer selected should accompany the Commission, either officially or unofficially, throughout the whole of its operations. In so far as regards the line of the Alaschkerd, there is, as you are aware, a formal agreement providing for the presence of a British Commissioner.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 285.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 753. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 882, Confidential, of the 4th instant, in which you report an account given you by M. Waddington of certain verbal communications which had recently passed between Prince Orloff and himself on the subject of the Russian proceedings in Eastern Roumelia.

I have to express to your Excellency the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received this report of the judicious language employed by M. Waddington, and I should wish you to thank his Excellency for his communication.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 286.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 383.) *Foreign Office, November* 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 462, Confidential, of the 1st instant, and I have to express to you my approval of the observations addressed by you to Count Maffei with regard to the foreign policy of Italy.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBUEY.

No. 287.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 925.) *St. Petersburgh, November* 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship copy of a note which I have received from M. de Giers, dated Livadia, the 28th October / 9th November in reply to my note of the 24th ultimo, in which, in conformity with your Lordship's instructions, I had brought under the notice of the Imperial Government the observations addressed by the Imperial Commissioner, Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff, to the Earl of Donoughmore.

I have, &c.

(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 287.

M. de Giers to Lord A. Loftus.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Livadia, October* 28 / *November* 9, 1878.

J'AI exactement reçu la note que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser en date du $\frac{13}{25}$ dernier, ainsi que l'extrait de rapport qui l'avait accompagné.

La lecture de cette dernière pièce m'a causé autant de regret que de surprise. En effet, le Comte de Donoughmore semble attribuer aux paroles qui lui aurait adressées dans un entretien intime le Prince Dondonkoff, en le prévenant d'ailleurs qu'il le faisait à titre de simple particulier, une importance et surtout une signification qui ne me paraissent nullement justifiées.

Le Gouvernement Impérial a donné tant de preuves irrécusables de ses dispositions conciliantes et pacifiques, qu'il est vraiment difficile d'admettre que leur sincérité puisse inspirer le moindre doute à la suite de quelque parole imprudente qui serait échappée à l'un de ses agents, dans une conversation toute privée.

En déplorant ce fait je ne manquerai pas de prévenir le Commissaire Imperial en Bulgarie du fâcheux malentendu qui en est résulté.

Je ne puis, toutefois, m'empêcher de profiter de cette occasion afin d'assurer votre Excellence que la volonté de mon auguste Maître étant d'assurer aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin tout le respect qui leur est dû et d'établir sur la base de leur fidèle exécution l'apaisement et la pacification si généralement désirés, aucun des fonctionnaires de Sa Majesté ne saurait jamais s'écarter de cette voie ni manquer aux devoirs qui en sont la conséquence.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) DE GIERS.

No. 288.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 13, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of the 12th, received this morning, I have to state to your Lordship that yesterday morning I telegraphed to Her Majesty's Commissioner as follows:—

Porte has sent orders to Turkish troops to be ready by the 13th to occupy territory evacuated by Servians.

Account telegraphed yesterday to Constantinople:—the greater part of the work of demarcation to the south of Vranja, between Mounts Poljanica and Izrni bhr is now finished, and it is hoped that, weather permitting, it will be completed in about twelve day[s, and] the boundary once fixed and known, which is not yet the case, the Servian troops will retire to the new frontier.

Following telegram sent to Sir H. Layard last night:—

"I communicated to Servian Government this morning your Excellency's telegram respecting the orders given to the Turkish troops. In reply, they have requested me to inform Porte at once that orders have been issued for the immediate withdrawal of the Servian troops from all territories beyond that part of the new limits of the Principality already marked by the Commission, if possible; but that, should the Ottoman troops attempt to advance at other points where the new frontier-line has not yet been fixed by the Commission, force should be employed to arrest their progress. Too much weight should not be attached to this uncalled-for threat on the part of the Servian Government. Their needless alarm will, however, hasten evacuation of Turkish territory."

(Above also communicated to Commissioner.)

No. 289.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November* 13, 1878.

ITALIAN Envoy has received instructions to postpone presenting his credentials till further orders. This is supposed to be in [? consequence of] declaration with

regard to religious disabilities which Powers that have hitherto delayed recognition desire Roumania to make.

Some friendly suggestion with reference to this is [? expected] immediately from the German Government.

No. 290.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 997.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 13, 1878.*

ROUMANIAN Minister has communicated to Grand Vizier, French, and Austrian Ambassadors, and myself following telegram from the Roumanian Prime Minister:—

"Russians are making difficulties about handing over Dobrudscha to us. We learn that more than two corps d'armée are advancing on Dobrudscha by Bolgrad and Ismail.

"Communicate these facts confidentially to the Turkish Government, and inform me [?] what Ambassadors of foreign Powers and the Porte think of this."

No. 291.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(No. 53.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 14, 1878.*

MONSTER Deputation came to the Commission to-day, and was received by the President.

We have determined, so as to tranquillize the public mind, now much excited, to give an answer to petition, defining our powers, and explaining intentions of the Treaty of Berlin.

Bulgarians fear a return to the old Turkish system.

Austrian Commissioner, who is now President, will prepare an answer, which we propose to publish unofficially.

All is quiet; but the two French Secretaries declare some Bulgarians made menacing signs at them, signifying intention to fire upon them.

No. 292.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 14.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 14, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Commissioner telegraphs to me [? as follows]:—

"Servian Commissioner has informed officially Commission that troops have been ordered to withdraw behind new frontier, but he has protested against frontier marked by Commission. Can you get protest withdrawn?"

No. 293.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 14, 1878, 3·5 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 12th instant, have you pointed out to the Roumanian Ministers the danger they are incurring?

So long as they are neutral it will be the interest of all States to respect their independent position. If they become Dependencies of Russia their nominal independence will become a danger and an object of apprehension to the Powers which are interested in preventing the advance of Russia. Such apprehension will be fatal to them if in any future war Russia should be defeated.

No. 294.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 14, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA'S Circular of the 7th November as to demands of Russia for conclusion of definitive Treaty of Peace has been communicated to us. What answer does Count Andrassy propose to send to it?

No. 295.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1408.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 14, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government have learned with much regret from your Excellency's despatch No. 1340 of the 29th ultimo, that Shefket Pasha had been placed in command of the Turkish troops intended to put down the insurrectionary movement in Macedonia, and they approve the step you have taken to persuade the Porte to rescind this appointment.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 296.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1410.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 14, 1878.*

I HAVE to state to you that the advice you have given to the Ministers of the Sultan, and through them to His Majesty, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 1329, Confidential, of the 26th ultimo, that the overtures now proffered by the Austro-Hungarian Government to the Ottoman Porte with a view to the re-establishment of cordial relations between the two Governments, should be received in an equally friendly spirit by the Turkish Government, meets with the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 297.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1423. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 14, 1878.*

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a telegraphic Circular despatch which was placed in my hands to-day by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires, asking the advice of the Powers as to whether the Porte should sign the new Treaty proposed by Prince Labanoff as a condition of evacuation.

I told Musurus Bey that the Russian Ambassador's pretension to make the evacuation depend on the signing of the Treaty was quite inadmissible, but that I must make inquiries as to the views of other Powers before giving advice upon the question whether it would be wise in the Porte now to sign.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 298.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1424.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1878.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch No. 1344, Secret, of the 29th ultimo, giving the substance of what passed at your interview with the Sultan on that day, and I have now the satisfaction of informing you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language used by you with regard to the various topics discussed upon the occasion in question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 299.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 105.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatches Nos. 76 and 77 of the 29th ultimo, reporting what had passed at your interviews at Philippopolis with the Bulgarian and the Greek Metropolitans, and I have to state to you that I approve your language to both these Ecclesiastical dignitaries.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 300.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 106.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1878.

I HAVE to express to you my approval of the observations you addressed to M. Gueschoff as spokesman of the deputation of Bulgarians in the interview of which the particulars are reported in your despatch No. 80 of the 29th ultimo.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 301.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(No. 44.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1878.

I HAVE to acknowledge the receipt of your despatch marked No. 28A, Confidential, of the 1st, respecting the political and military condition of Russia, and to state to you that I have read this Report with great interest.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 302.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 578.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1878.

I HAVE inclosed to your Excellency in my despatch No. 577 of this day a copy of the Circular from Safvet Pasha of the 7th instant, in which he requests the opinion of the European Governments upon the Russian demand for the conclusion of a definitive Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey, and upon the principal points specified in the Project of Treaty presented to the Porte by the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople.

You stated in your telegram of the 11th instant that the Turkish Ambassador at

Vienna had been instructed to ask Count Andrassy what was his opinion of the Russian pretension that a definitive Treaty of Peace must be concluded before the Ottoman territory could be evacuated, and that he was going to Pesth in a few days to execute his instructions. If he should not have communicated the Circular before you receive the copy which has been sent to you, I should wish you to acquaint Count Andrassy with its contents, and to state to him that Her Majesty's Government would be glad to learn what answer he would propose to return to it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 303.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 587.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 14, 1878.

HER Majesty's Government approve the language used by your Excellency to the Roumanian Minister, as reported in your despatch No. 780 of the 2nd instant, respecting the results that would follow from the conclusion by Roumania of a Convention with Russia permitting the passage of Russian troops through the Dobrudscha after the expiration of the period fixed by Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 304.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 142.)
My Lord, *Tehran, August* 26, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Turkish Ambassador at this Court has, with the consent of the Sepeh Salar, requested permission from the Porte to conclude an Extradition Treaty with this country with the object of effectually repressing Kurdish depredations on both sides of the frontier.

Kotur having been given back to Persia, his Excellency has been pressing the Persian Government to settle the whole Turco-Persian Boundary question on the basis of the proposal of the Persian Government, put forward in a note to this Legation of the 20th September, 1870, which was inclosed to the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in Mr. Alison's despatch No. 57 of that year.

I have communicated this information to his Excellency Sir Henry Layard.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 305.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 154.)
My Lord, *Tehran, September* 15, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to your communication of the 6th instant, that, although His Majesty the Shah had, notwithstanding the desire of the Russian Minister to substitute a scheme for a railway by Tiflis and Tabreez for the concession for one from Resht to Tehran, already approved the signatures of his Council granting the latter, he again withheld it in consequence of the support given by your Lordship to my representations, and would now appear to be inclining towards the relinquishment of all ideas for railways connected with Russia, in favour of communications with the Persian Gulf by rail to Khoreon, and thence to Mohamrah by river.

At the present moment Baron Reuter has no agent here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RONALD F. THOMSON.

No. 306.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 69. Political.)

Bosna-Seraï, October 26, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 67, Political, of the 26th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that an officer of the Porte, Colonel Omer Bey, has arrived here to make arrangements for the departure of the numerous Osmanli families left destitute here in consequence of recent events. The Austrian authorities provide the necessary conveyances and funds to enable them to reach either Ragusa by way of Mostar, or Semlin by way of Brood, and they will be sent on thence to their several destinations by their own Consuls.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 307.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 70. Political.)

Bosna-Seraï, October 28, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that during my late journey to Mostar I was much struck with the satisfactory condition of affairs in the Herzegovina compared with that in Bosnia. The Turkish officials have not been removed from their posts, the zaptiehs still perform the duties of police, and existing institutions have not in general been upset. The tithes and other taxes are collected without difficulty, all officials are regularly paid, and when I was at Mostar there was a balance in the Government chest of upwards of 100,000 piastres. General Jovanovic, the commander of the troops, who was formerly Austrian Consul-General in this town, and is therefore acquainted with the Turkish system of government, and knows how to manage the natives, has wisely contented himself for the moment with endeavouring to ameliorate the existing administration, and not made a clean sweep of every bureau and every official, as has been done here, before he has the means of replacing them by something better. The consequence is that there is not that deadlock in affairs which is witnessed here, and the people seem tolerably content. The Mussulmans also have been treated with much greater consideration than in Bosnia, and they are not therefore cowed and hostile as here. I was at Mostar when General Jovanovic returned after a five weeks' absence in the province, and the occasion was availed of to get up a demonstration in his honour, and as an expression of loyalty to the Emperor of Austria-Hungary, in which the Moslem population also joined.

The whole of the Herzegovina appears at the present moment to be quite tranquil, and all the roads are said to be safe. It is hoped that the Christian refugees will be able to return before the winter, and the "Capitano di Circolo" of Ragusa was lately at Mostar to concert measures with General Jovanovic for their repatriation.

Here, on the other hand, all creeds and classes seem discontented. Innumerable requisitions are made on the people; nothing is as yet paid for; there is no police force, and robberies in the town are frequent, and no administration can be said to exist. The new organization, it is hoped, will be introduced by the 1st January, but in the meantime all is chaos. The insurrection does not yet seem to be quite suppressed in the Krajna, but this I attribute rather to the difficulty the insurgents experience in that district in finding safety in flight, as those in the Possavina did by escaping over the frontier to Servia. I do not, however, anticipate further serious resistance in any part of the province.

The Bosnian Christian fugitives can scarcely return this year. They have a very different climate to face from that of the Herzegovina, and the season is now too far advanced to permit of their making the necessary preparations for passing the winter in the deserted districts of the Banjaluka and Bihac Sandjaks. I am told that it was suggested that each refugee should receive a gift of 5 florins, and nothing else, to enable him to return to, and settle in, his country; but this sum would be perfectly inadequate to meet the wants of the majority of the refugees, who have no homes to return to, no cattle, no seed, no means, in fact, of making a fresh start in life. Many of the well-to-do

refugees are, I believe, already returning to the country, but they form a very small minority of the total number who have left their homes during the past three years.

With regard to the future organization of this country, I hear that the expenses of the civil administration are not to exceed 3,000,000 florins. It will be difficult, however, to efficiently administrate the province for that sum. For the gendarmerie alone it is reckoned that 1,200,000 florins will be required annually. This estimate is based on the calculation of 600 florins per annum for every Austrian and 400 florins for every native gendarme, and the total force to consist of 2,500 men. It is, I believe, intended, with a view to economy, to unite the administrative and judicial functions in the different cazas in one and the same person.

From a fiscal point of view, Bosnia will certainly not enter on its new era under very favourable auspices. The occupation has so far cost over 100,000,000 florins; 60,000,000 florins were originally granted by the Austro-Hungarian Chambers, and a further grant of 40,000,000 florins is expected, leaving 60,000,000 florins to be paid by Bosnia. It is proposed, I believe, to raise a loan on the province of 100,000,000 florins. This will probably involve a yearly burden of not less than 7,000,000 florins, which, with the 3,000,000 florins allowed for the civil administration, makes 10,000,000 florins. The annual revenue of this province has hitherto been about 50,000,000 piastres, say 5,000,000 florins. No doubt, under a better administration, with a just distribution and honest collection of the taxes, the revenue will vastly increase, but if the military expenditure and the cost of necessary public works be added to the above 10,000,000 florins, the difference between the receipts and expenditure becomes so enormous that it is difficult to see how an equilibrium can be ever established.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 308.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 150. Political.)

Trebizond, October 30, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 144 of the 19th inst., I have the honour to report that Daghès Efendi left for Erzeroum a week ago, but that the other members of the Boundary Commission, who were to depart for Batoum, are still here.

The Russian Commission consists for Batoum of Major-General Stebnitzki, Captain Levashow, and M. Emelianoff, formerly Chancellier of the Russian Consulate at Trebizond, and now delegated by the Foreign Office to be Secretary of the Commission; that for Kars of Colonel Maluma, Lieutenant-Colonel Kaulbert, and M. Petrow, Secretary of Legation at Tehran. I may point out here that Colonel Maluma, who was Captain of Engineers in 1874, was attached for a long period as Chancellier to the Consulate at Erzeroum.

The Russian Commissioners seem anxious to begin the work of delimitation, and have sent here the Secretary, M. Emelianoff, to induce their Turkish colleagues to proceed at once to Batoum; but the latter state that they must wait for further orders from Constantinople.

I have gathered from a conversation with M. Emelianoff that the question whether a British Commissioner is to take part in the delimitation has something to do with the delay, but that the Russians, on the basis of the Berlin Protocols, consider that British officers have no right to interfere, except in the delimitation of the frontier* in the Alashkerd Valley.

I have also understood that the Russians insist on the Batoum and Kars Boundary Commissions being independent from each other, and not, as now constituted by the Porte, in consequence of an oversight on the part of the Russian Ambassador.

This exception is naturally made in order to have no ground for British interference in the delimitation of the frontier line between the Alashkerd Valley and the coast of the Black Sea.

According to the Russian view the work of the Kars Commission comprises not

* The "line" of the Alashkerd defined in the Agreement of the 12th July would have a more extended signification than "the frontier in the Alashkerd Valley," mentioned in the Treaty.

only the delimitation of the Persian frontier, but also that of the new boundary line in the Alashkerd Valley.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 309.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 151. Political.)
Trebizond, October 30, 1878.

My Lord,

I TOOK occasion of the reproaches which have been addressed lately by the Porte to Yussuf Pasha (as reported in my despatch No. 143 of the 19th instant) to make to him, in the most friendly terms, some observations on the unsatisfactory working of the local Courts of Justice, which has for consequence to encourage disorders in this province.

I must explain that the Mussulmans, as well as the Christians, have but too often motive to complain of the usually protracted action of, and of the often partial sentences issued by, the Medjlisses, which result in enabling the parties guilty of outrages to evade all punishment.

Whenever I spoke to Yussuf Pasha on the subject he deplored with me the state of things, which is to be attributed to the Governors-General having been deprived of all control on the local Courts, without the latter being held responsible for their misdoings.

The action of the Vali is limited to affix decrees to the petitions presented to him, referring each case to the competent Tribunal.

I can bear witness that Yussuf Pasha is but too conscientiously performing personally this duty, which takes up all his time. This line of conduct may be in conformity with the existing regulations, but it is far from securing the good administration of the province.

Yussuf Pasha is, in my opinion, an upright and intelligent functionary, but who, having been for some time Minister of Finance, considers that the post of Governor-General of a province is too far below him.

I told him so frankly, adding that, however inferior to his merits his present position may be, he can even here render signal services to his country, owing to the very fact of his not having solicited the appointment, and to his independent fortune, which allow him more liberty of action.

I reminded him that on his appointment it was made known by an Imperial Iradé that in consequence of the importance acquired by Trebizond during the last events, its administration had been confided to him; that he was by that fact invested with more extensive powers than an ordinary Governor-General, but that even without this special authority the present circumstances were such as to justify his assuming an unusual responsibility, which by producing beneficial effects to the populations confided to his administration could in no way be disowned by the Porte, and that in all cases he would have done his duty to his country.

Yussuf Pasha acknowledged that he had seen sometimes so flagrant cases of illegality that, in spite of regulations, he had assumed to tear up the sentences issued by the Courts of Justice, and order the revisal of the affair; but that the present members of the Medjlisses being unfit persons, a fresh election was the only measure which could produce an amelioration.

I availed myself of his having stated besides, that the only court which dispatched business to the general satisfaction was the Idaré Medjliss, of which he is the president, to point out to him that his personal supervision of the other Medjlisses, the very thing I meant in urging him to assume a certain amount of responsibility, might be conducive to similar satisfactory results.

I then proceeded to explain to him how, in my opinion, he could, by entrusting to a person of his confidence the drawing up of the decrees on the petitions addressed to him, and devote his time to a work of a superior order, tending to secure justice, and, consequently, more tranquillity in this province.

I advised him to adopt the following measures:—

1. To call for a list of all the pending cases, and see to their being settled within a reasonable time.

2. To have inscribed in a special register, kept in a tabular form, the petitions as they are daily presented, and insist on their being examined in the order of inscription, noting the days of hearing against each case as well as the motives, if any, which may necessitate a postponement.

3. To drop in now and then unexpectedly in the different local courts, and assist to their sittings, in order to judge personally of their proceedings.

4. To suspend, if not to punish, such members of the Medjlisses who may be found in fault, and to have others elected in their places as they become vacant, thus giving a salutary warning to new members.

I expressed my conviction that he would be strongly supported by public opinion in a task of this description, and I hinted at the same time that by allowing matters to continue in the disreputable condition which he acknowledged himself to exist, he would be playing the game of Russia.

As Yussuf Pasha is far from being a Russian partisan this observation impressed him deeply, and he thanked me for my suggestion, which he said he would follow, adding that he had already adopted, with satisfactory results, a somewhat similar method for police cases.

However, I am not very sanguine that Yussuf Pasha will take the initiative of these simple measures; he is a partisan of Midhat Pasha, and fears to be suspected, but a word of encouragement from the Porte, by placing him in a quite different position, may enable him to improve the present condition of this vilayet.

I shall consider myself happy if your Lordship does not think that I have assumed too much upon myself in speaking as I have done to Yussuf Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 310.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 152. Political.)
Trebizond, October 31, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a petition relating to an outrage committed by Kurds on natives of the village of Aagh and others, who were travelling over the Khonous district, and containing many other general details concerning the Kurds.

It is remarkable that in all the letters and petitions which I have from time to time communicated to your Lordship, and which give a fair idea of the real state of the country, mention is always made in general terms of more flagrant outrages perpetrated in other districts.

These presumed cases, which are, however, never specially related, tend to entertain among the Christians a somewhat exaggerated impression of the evils to which the populations in this quarter are subjected.

I have communicated to Captain Trotter, for his information, the inclosed petition, as well as those concerning the outrage at Khodoortchoor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 310.

Armenians from the Village of Aagh to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Trebizond, October 29, 1878.

Sir,

WE, the undersigned Protestant Armenians of the village of Aagh, located about twenty-five miles from Bitlis, on the southern shore of Lake Van, desire to call your attention to the deplorable condition of our district, and the outrages we have suffered at the hands of the Kurds.

For many years we have been utterly at the mercy of these men, who have no occupation but to ride about from place to place, and take from us whatever they like, horses, cattle, sheep, provisions, the clothes from our backs, the beds from under us, many times invading the sanctity of our private apartments, and violating the persons of our wives and daughters.

When the Russians occupied the districts north of us last winter, these Kurds were in mortal fear that the day of retribution had come, and they made haste in many instances to restore stolen property, and to conciliate the Christians, that their punishment might be as light as possible.

So long as this occupation continued we enjoyed great quiet and perfect tranquillity, although the Russians did not come within about twenty miles of us. As soon, however, as the Kurds learned that the firing of cannon in Van, and other rejoicings of the Turks, was because the Berlin Congress had decreed to give Alashgherd back to Turkey, and that there was no more fear of the Russians, they began their depredations more fiercely than ever, as if to revenge upon the poor defenceless villagers the death of their comrades who perished in the war.

To attempt a detailed account of these depredations would make our petition too lengthy. Suffice it to say that they have taken thousands of sheep and other animals; they have taken from our storehouses and threshing-floors all they desired, and we and our children have been left to want and suffering. If any one offers resistance he is either murdered at once without mercy, or afterwards revenge by murder or by burning the stacks of hay, or in some other form, is sure to follow.

As our own village is small, and somewhat sheltered on the shore of the lake, we have not suffered as severely as some others. Still, what we have lost and suffered compels us to seek work abroad, that we may free ourselves from debt. For instance, from one of our numbers, besides other exactions, the Kurds took a pair of oxen. To buy another pair of oxen, and to supply other necessaries, he hired of a Turk in Bitlis, at 50 per cent. interest, 15 liras. In two years this debt had doubled, and with a previous debt amounts to 60 liras. We are all oppressed with similar debts, and are struggling to release ourselves from them.

We left our village on Tuesday, the 8th of this month, and were coming this way. Other footmen joined our party, until we numbered twenty-four. On Saturday, the 12th instant, about noon, we passed a Kurdish village called Lower Suleimej, in the Khonous district, about half an hour above the bridge that crosses the Araxes.

Before entering the village a man from a field asked us if we should stop in their village or not. We replied that we should pass on.

We observed that this man, as if chasing a horse that had got loose, ran hastily to the village. We passed it, and sat down in a valley near to eat bread. Going again on our way, after passing the bridge a Kurd came riding behind us in fine dress, whom we all recognized as one of those standing on the roof of a house in the village of Suleimej, and whom several of our party recognized at once as Mustafa Agha, son of Abdullah, who is not only Chief of the village, but all the villagers obey him as they would a tyrant.

As we entered the gorge below the bridge, this man followed on, and drawing his sword, threatened to murder us. Some of our number were frightened, and proposed to turn back in hope of reaching Kooloo, not far distant. Others said, "What can one man do with so many?" But directly we were confronted with four armed horsemen, among whom we recognized the man who had addressed us in the field, riding the same horse he was chasing in such haste to the village. We were hedged in on every side, robbers before and behind, the river on our right, and high rocky hills on our left. A panic seized us, and we fled up the steep mountain side as we best could. Some were seized at once and forced to hold the robbers' horses, while they, dismounting, began to pelt us with stones. One of our number, Ermeaj, was struck in the back of the head, and fell bleeding and unconscious. At last they captured our whole party and began to take our money and clothing. Two or three succeeded in their flight in hiding their money and parcels behind rocks, but others were stripped of all that was valuable of money and clothing. The robbers grew angry with one Boghus of Bittis, because they thought he was concealing his money from them, and shot him in the foot. The robbers also consulted whether they had not better throw Ermeaj into the river, lest he should recover and complain to the Russians, and they should come and revenge the outrage, but were restrained from doing so by one of our party, who feigned himself a Kurd and begged for his life. They then removed the still unconscious young man beyond the boundary of their village, and left him to die. We brought him on our backs to the friendly Kurdish village of Matchitlov, and afterwards to Hertev, a Christian village, where he lay sick three days. Boghus of Bittis we left at Hertev in a very critical state from his wounds, and we doubt if he can recover.

The men of Lower Suleimej are a terror to all the region, not only to Christians

but also to peaceable and well-disposed Kurds and Turks, and the robbery which we suffered is only one of many which they visit on quiet and inoffensive travellers.

That you may know who are our principal oppressors, we give you the following names of Kurdish Chiefs whose acts of robbery and outrage are well known to thousands:—

In the Van Mutessarifflik—

Moron, of the tribe of Hassan.

Hassan, of the tribe of Hassan.

Sons of Beg Zadé.

Sons of Kirsah Ameh.

Sons of Chuhorn Ahmed Aga.

Sons of Shango Abdullah of Naich. Also his brothers.

Mehmed, brother of Rashgo of Muzreh.

Nouri Bey, son of Mohammed Bey of Akhlat.

In the region of Bitlis—

All those Kurds that dwell altogether in tents, going to the warm districts of Sért and Diarbekir in winter.

The tribe of Mootkan, occupying a region directly west of Bitlis.

The tribe of Nehi, located directly east of Bitlis. The men of this tribe are notable for their outrages on women.

In the region of Moosh—

Mirzah Bey and his son Moussa Bey.

The tribe of Belik.

The tribe of Khootch.

The tribe of Kashkotan.

The tribe of Gebran, who once robbed the celebrated monastery of Lourp Garabed, near Moosh.

The tribe of Luruk.

The tribe of Hassan in the vicinity of Khanous.

These are tribes and men whom we personally know, and to their many evil deeds we can testify. These men are well known to the authorities; many have been arrested, but they have invariably secured their own release through a lavish use of money.

A few years ago Ismail Pasha (now dead), then Vali of Erzeroum, took several of these men to that city, and they were a good while detained in prison. When they returned to our region they robbed us worse than ever, asserting as a reason that the people at whose instance they had been imprisoned must make up to them the large sums of money they had spent in securing their release.

Without prolonging our words, we beg that, through your kind assistance, our deplorable condition may become known to the English Government and people, and that our oppressors may be punished and restrained, and we be permitted to enjoy quiet and security in our own houses.

We are, &c.

(Signed) ASTADOUR SARKISEAN,
(And 8 others, natives of Aagh).

No. 311.

Vice-Consul Billotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 158. Political.) [B.B.]

Trebizond, November 2, 1878.

My Lord,

THE representatives at Trebizond of the inhabitants of Khodoortchoor have addressed to me a third petition, which I have the honour to transmit herewith in copy for your Lordship's information.

Ismail Pasha has asked the Armenians in the district of Ispir to give him an account of the damages inflicted on them within the last thirty years by their Mussulman neighbours. The Armenians have hastened to comply with this request, the object of which is not known to them.

They assign the unusual energy and good-will displayed by the local authorities at Erzeroum and Trebizond to the powerful intervention of Her Majesty's

Ambassador at Constantinople in their favour, for which they express the deepest gratitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 311.

Armenians of Khodoortchoor to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Trébizonde, le 2 Novembre, 1878.

M. le Consul,

NOUS Soussignés, habitants de Khodourtchour, avons l'honneur et le plaisir de porter à votre connaissance que depuis la dernière pétition que nous vous avons adressée le 16 Octobre, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan, ayant pris en considération notre état déplorable, a renforcé le nombre des soldats qui avaient été expédiés dans notre district pour poursuivre sérieusement les coupables.

Nous venons d'apprendre par une lettre de notre curé qu'ils y ont déjà arrêté sous soupçon environ soixante-dix individus, au nombre desquels se trouvent les fils de Chérif Aga de Knood (excepté Khalid); Tcheghenoglou Mevloud, Kartalaglou Hussein, qui sont emprisonnés et soumis à une enquête sévère; quelques-uns des coupables ont été arrêtés à Ispir et conduits à Erzéroum pour y être jugés.

Outre les trois individus déjà emprisonnés sous soupçon à Rizeh, on vient d'y arrêter, à la suite des ordres sévères donnés par son Excellence Youssouff Pacha, les nommés Doursoun et Hassan, fils de Salih Bayrakdar, Chefs de l'expédition de Khodourtchour.

Nous espérons, M. le Consul, que grâce à l'équité du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan et grâce aux démarches faites en notre faveur, ces coupables seront punis rigoureusement selon leurs méfaits, et que nous pourrons vivre dorénavant en paix et en parfaite sécurité, en bénissant notre Souverain, Sa Majesté le Sultan, ses fonctionnaires, et tous nos bienfaiteurs.

Nous, &c.
(Suivent les 15 signatures).

No. 312.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 85.)

Philippopolis, November 1, 1878.

My Lord,

I YESTERDAY called on the Exarch Josef, and had a long conversation with him. He gave me an historical recital of what he called the Bulgarian revival, after that nation had, as he said, for so many years belonged in a body to the Turks and in soul to the Greeks. Though very highly coloured, his language was eloquent and interesting, and I asked His Holiness to give me in writing the historical part of his remarks.

This he promised to do, and when I receive it I will transmit it to your Lordship.

The object he had in view was twofold: the first to prove that a Bulgarian kingdom, if ever formed, would be hostile rather than friendly to Russia; and, secondly, to explain his own personal position and intentions. He first told me that, having studied law in Europe ("ayant fait son droit"), he came to Constantinople to seek employment in one of the Turkish law courts. Failing in this, he was named in 1870 or 1871 Secretary to the Exarchate, and later took holy orders. He said he had always sympathised with the Bulgarian movement, but from an educational and religious rather than from a political point of view. He was a Conservative in politics, and believed more in the regeneration and political restoration of his nation by intellectual means than by intrigues or force. For this reason, when Bishop of Loftcha, he had advised his adherents not to join the Omladina, or to act with the Moscow Committee; and when the insurrection did take place, his diocese was quiet and took no part in it. He was two years ago, on the deposition of his predecessor, named Exarch, and recognised by the Porte; and he had held aloof from political agitation, and still wished to do so.

By the Treaty of Berlin (Article LXII) he had the right to name Bishops wherever there was a Bulgarian community in the Ottoman Empire. I understood him to say

that, hitherto he has not been allowed to exercise this power. It was his intention to elect for the Ottoman nationality, to reside at Constantinople, and to occupy himself exclusively with the spiritual and educational supervision of the Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia, as well as in Macedonia and Thrace. His Holiness wished me to submit his wishes to your Lordship, with the request that Her Majesty's Government would support them through Her Majesty's Ambassador at the Porte.

On this point I will address your Lordship later.

His Holiness was most anxious to impress upon me the slightness of the hold exercised by the Russians over the Bulgarian mind. He said that, when the Bulgarian revival began, the Russians, who were anxious for the unity of the Church, took the part of the Patriarch against the Bulgarians, and that all the latter owed to the Russians at that time were the Prayer-books in Bulgarian, which could only be found in Russia. At the present, of course, the active protection given to the Bulgarians had endowed Russia with a vast influence. Notwithstanding this, the Bulgarians were much galled by the cession to Roumania of the Dobrudscha, which was principally inhabited by Bulgarians.

If Bulgaria were free it would not be under the influence of Russia, nor wish to become a Russian province, as the feeling of Bulgarians was essentially democratic, and opposed to a Russian form of government.

Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert, and others to whom I have spoken on the subject, think there is much truth in the remarks of the Exarch, but at the same time believe that, however strong would be the disinclination to Russian rule, a free Bulgaria would not have the energy to resist it.

Inclosed is a translation of a speech delivered by Prince Dondoukoff on his departure. Although more moderate in tone than his former utterances, it breathes the spirit and points to the same ends as those indicated in the Petitions, copies of which I have sent to your Lordship, and the "Maritza" article, inclosed in my No. 82 of the 29th ultimo.

The bearing of the Russian authorities to the Commission is curious. They take every opportunity of diminishing their importance as a body, while showing great courtesy to the Commissioners individually.

General Stolipine has spoken to some of my colleagues of the evacuation in May as a certainty, and to anticipate that event the Russian authorities are preparing the seeds of disorders to follow their departure.

It is uncertain, with the recent pretensions advanced by Russia, whether Adrianople will then be evacuated, and it is needless to observe how great would be the complications if Eastern Roumelia were relinquished by the Russians to the militia they are now carefully preparing, and the road from Constantinople were blocked by a powerful Russian army, kept outside the bounds of this province. It may be as well to observe that the Bulgarian militia now being formed is said to be an efficient force. Colonel Borthwick (Mahir Bey), an English officer in the Turkish service attached to the Turkish Commissioner, tells me he has seen them at exercise, and considers them superior to the Russian soldiery.

As I have telegraphed to your Lordship, some 30,000 of this militia have been recruited in Eastern Roumelia, of whom 20,000 have been sent to the neighbourhood of Sofia.

The existence of this Bulgarian militia, created to my mind in violation of the Treaty of Berlin, is a serious danger; and a still greater danger is the attempt now being made by the Russians to drill Bulgarian peasants outside the militia in the use of arms given by Russia.

In short, evacuation or no evacuation, Russia is doing everything to prepare this province for union with the Bulgarian Principality. To this all her efforts are directed, with scarcely any disguise, the Bulgarian Committees and the Russian authorities being convertible terms.

But, assuming Adrianople to be evacuated, what will the Turks find here? A population armed and excited by Russian money and Russian agents, ready at any risk to renew the disorders of the last few years, and knowing that a large force, nominally Bulgarian, but in reality Russian, will be ready in the Principality to take the first pretext for an intervention.

I beg to inclose an extract from the "Maritza," showing how the feelings of the people are worked up by the official journal.

General Stolipine has, within the last few days, ordered a number of returning refugees to be detained at Adrianople, on the plea that they cannot find shelter here.

Almost simultaneously this article appears, accusing the Turks of a desire to replace the Circassians in the province.

The real reason for the article is the desire, generally shown in the Commission here, for the repatriation of the refugees. This is a subject which has given me very grave anxiety for many conflicting reasons. Putting aside the misery of their present condition, their absence affects most seriously the future political condition of the country.

The Bulgarians declare that their numbers amount to seven-eighths of the population. Though I believe this to be greatly exaggerated, they no doubt greatly outnumber all the other sects and races put together, now that the Mussulman population is so greatly diminished.

The Greeks are estimated at from 30,000 to 50,000, the latter being the estimate of the Fanar.

In any elections, therefore, that may take place, whatever may be the system proposed by the Commission, the Bulgarians must have an immense majority.

On the other hand, in the present condition of things, the repatriation of the refugees would involve a very grave responsibility, one which it may be necessary to assume, but which requires, before so doing, serious consideration.

With all the reports constantly coming to us of the maltreatment by Bulgarians and Russians, and the poverty-stricken condition of the Mussulmans here, whose houses in the town have been destroyed, and whose properties in the country villages have been seized, and with the approach of winter it might be more advisable to feed them where they are with money, if any is to be found in the resources of the province, and to repatriate them when the fine weather sets in.

If this despatch is of a discursive character, it is because I have not found it practicable in any other way to lay before your Lordship matters very much connected together in my mind, and which lead me to certain conclusions.

If I could command the course of events I should arrange them as follows:—

The evacuation of Adrianople and all parts of Turkey proper.

The preparation of a gendarmerie and militia contemporaneously with the labours of the Commission.

The evacuation by the Russians and the occupation of the frontiers of the province by Turkish troops.

The repatriation of the refugees.

The elections under Turkish rule, but with the presence and under the advice of the European Commission, which should only be dissolved on the completion of the new organization, to use the phraseology of Article XIX of the Treaty of Berlin.

I would venture to suggest that pressure should be brought on the Porte to hasten the organization of the gendarmerie, and to designate both the Governor-General and the officers of the militia. It would be well at any rate that the name of the Governor-General should be sanctioned by the Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 312.

Newspaper Extract.

LA ROUMÉLIE ORIENTALE ET LA COMMISSION.—Dimanche dernier, les Bulgares de Philippopoli ont remis au Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff une adresse de remercîments à l'occasion du départ du Commissaire Russe pour Sophia.

Le Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff a répondu à la nombreuse députation, chargée de présenter l'adresse, par allocution suivante, qui nous semble assez significative:—

"Messieurs,

"En me rendant à Sophia pour mettre en ordre les affaires qui ont trait à l'organisation de la future Principauté Bulgare, je n'ai pas voulu quitter Philippopoli sans vous exprimer ma profonde gratitude pour le concours et la sympathie dont vous avez fait preuve à mon égard, pendant la mise à exécution des bonnes mesures prises par notre grand Souverain pour l'avenir de ce pays.

"Grâce à ce concours, outre la formation de la milice territoriale distincte dans la Roumélie, je suis parvenu, dans un temps court, à introduire dans toutes les

branches de l'Administration de nouvelles dispositions et institutions identiques à celles qui sont mises en vigueur dans la Bulgarie Septentrionale. J'estime ce lien de plus haute importance pour l'avenir de la Roumélie.

"Pour le raffermissement et l'achèvement de la nouvelle organisation à introduire, et qui est déjà introduite en partie, j'ai jugé à propos de centraliser, sous mon contrôle suprême, l'administration civile entière, dans la personne du Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie. . . . La nomination à ces importantes fonctions du Général Stolipine, qui est estimé et connu de tous pour son activité à Philippopoli, vous offre la meilleure garantie du succès de l'œuvre.

"On attend incessamment la Commission Internationale qui, sur la base du Traité de Berlin, est appelée à s'occuper de l'examen des propositions relativement à l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale. Je suppose que les travaux de la Commission seront notablement facilités par les institutions déjà introduites qui donnent une pleine satisfaction aux aspirations et aux besoins du pays. En général, sauf la partie financière, le rôle de la Commission est provisoire, purement organisateur, et point du tout administratif, en sorte que toute l'Administration demeure, pour quelque temps, dans nos mains.

"Je comprends parfaitement les doutes et les craintes qui vous agitent en présence des pensées pour l'avenir; mais, dans ce cas, je me permets de vous dire ce que je vous ai dit plus d'une fois; le temps et les circonstances pourront changer beaucoup; la force des choses et de l'histoire est plus puissante que toutes les imaginations humaines. Ma prière principale est d'attendre tout de ce temps, et de ne pas compromettre votre œuvre sacrée par des démonstrations intempestives et déplacées, quelles qu'elles soient. En restant sur le terrain de la légalité et de l'ordre, vous méritez que l'attention soit attirée justement sur vos prières et espérances.

"Je ne me sépare pas de vous, je prends seulement congé de vous. J'espère de temps à autre venir vous visiter de Sophia, et poursuivre la consolidation de notre œuvre commune commencée, avec pleine foi dans la miséricorde Divine pour la réalisation définitive des bonnes intentions du Czar-Libérateur."

Inclosure 2 in No. 312.

Extract from the "Maritza."

Ploudiv, le 19 Octobre, 1878.

SI nous adressons à MM. les Représentants des Grandes Puissances dans la Commission pour l'organisation de la Bulgarie du Sud cette simple question: "Les Circassiens doivent-ils revenir dans la Bulgarie nord et sud?" nous n'avons pas le moindre doute qu'ils répondront tous négativement, à l'exception, sans doute, des Commissaires Turcs.

Ils répondront négativement, parce qu'ils sont tous sincèrement animés du désir d'introduire de l'ordre dans la Bulgarie du sud et d'en rendre la population heureuse; ils répondront négativement parce qu'ils connaissent bien l'opinion de l'Europe et de leurs Gouvernements respectifs sur cette question; ils répondront négativement, parce que les diplomates qui ont siégé dans la Conférence de Constantinople et qui connaissaient bien l'état de chose en Turquie, avaient pris sur ce point la résolution suivante:—

"La Sublime Porte s'interdira à l'avenir la colonisation des Circassiens dans ses possessions d'Europe. Quant aux familles de cette nation, qui y sont fixées en ce moment, elle encouragera leur éloignement en favorisant leur établissement dans les provinces Asiatiques Musulmanes."

Ils répondront, enfin, négativement, parce que le Traité de Berlin, sans être tout-à-fait clair sur cette question, en dit assez pour ne laisser là-dessus aucun doute à tous les hommes de bonne foi.

Eh bien, le Gouvernement Turc n'est pas de leur avis; il demande le retour des Circassiens dans les deux Bulgaries et il le demande avec une énergie qui ne nous a nullement étonné, nous qui connaissons bien ce Gouvernement. Deux séances entières de la Commission de rapatriement, qui siége en ce moment à Constantinople, ont été employés par les membres Turcs de cette Commission pour obtenir le consentement de leurs collègues Russes au retour des Circassiens en Bulgarie et dans la Thrace autonome, et ils ont déclaré suivre l'ordre de la Porte en demandant ce rapatriement des Circassiens.

Une pareille demande de la part du Gouvernement Turc ne nous a nullement

étonné ; c'est plutôt une démarche contraire de sa part à celle que nous voyons qui nous aurait surpris. Nous savons bien quels sont les sentiments qui animent les hommes d'Etat Turcs, nous ne doutons aucunement que l'ordre qui commence à régner dans notre patrie les offusque trop, et nous sommes persuadé que s'il dépendait d'eux ils n'hésiteraient pas une seule seconde pour lancer dans ce beau pays la lie de leurs bagnes et tous les coquins de l'univers, afin de bouleverser cet ordre et d'amener en Bulgarie l'état qui fleurissait sous l'égide de leurs gros Pachas.

Mais l'appel seul des Circassiens en Turquie n'a-t-il pas eu pour mobile l'hostilité envers les Chrétiens en général et envers les Bulgares en particulier? l'idée qui présidé à cette affreuse colonisation n'a-t-elle pas été de renforcer l'élément Musulman par tout ce qu'il y a de plus féroce et de plus hostile aux Chrétiens? Et ce plan si génial, si cher aux hommes d'Etat Turcs : aux Mithat, aux Ali, aux Fuad, on le laissera tomber devant le simple désir des ghiaours de l'Occident? Les Protocoles de la Commission du rapatriement démontrent jusqu'à l'évidence le contraire à ceux qui auraient pu avoir le moindre doute là-dessus.

Quant à nous, nous l'avons mille fois dit, et ce fait vient encore une fois de nous donner raison, que les hommes d'Etat Turcs feront tout leur possible, emploiront tous les moyens à leur disposition pour entraver la prospérité de la Bulgarie et pour y entretenir le désordre. Ne pouvant plus disposer à leur guise de la fortune et de la vie de leurs ex-sujets, ils n'auront plus qu'un souci, c'est d'entraîner toute la ci-devant Turquie dans l'abîme où ils se sont jetés eux-mêmes.

La première chose que fera la Porte après avoir nommé le Gouverneur-Général et les officiers de la milice et de la gendarmerie ce sera indubitablement de renvoyer dans leurs villages les hordes sauvages des Circassiens, et elle le fera parce qu'elle le désire ardemment et parce que le Traité de Berlin ne le lui défend pas explicitement. Et alors les scènes sauvages que les Bulgares ont vues de leurs propres yeux, les tortures qu'ils ont subies, et les atrocités qui se passent en ce moment même en Macédoine et dans l'Asie Mineure et que les journaux Turcophiles même de Constantinople racontent tout au long, se renouvèleront en Bulgarie : la sécurité disparaîtra et la misère la plus affreuse y rétablira son trône. La Porte profitera de ce désordre pour lancer ses garnisons dans la province autonome et la subjuguera définitivement.

Nous demandons MM. les Commissaires, qui honorent notre ville par leur présence, les Bulgares peuvent-ils de nouveau se soumettre à un tel régime? Ne seraient-ils pas les derniers ingands si, après avoir été libérés, ils se laissaient imposer un joug aussi dégradant? Quel peuple civilisé ou qui aspire à la civilisation et qui se respecte se laissera jamais traiter d'une manière aussi indigne?

On nous répondra, sans doute, que les Commissaires interviendront auprès de leurs Gouvernements respectifs et obtiendront que les Grandes Puissances interdisent à la Porte le renvoie des Circassiens en Bulgarie. Nous voulons bien le croire ; mais l'affaire des Circassiens n'est qu'une question particulière, et si nous la relevons nous le faisons simplement pour montrer à ceux qui ne le savent pas quels sont les sentiments des hommes d'Etat Turcs vis-à-vis de la Bulgarie ; pour leur prouver que les Bulgares ont complétement raison de se défier de la Porte et de repousser toute tentative qui sera faite à rétablir son autorité sur notre patrie ; pour leur démontrer que les Turcs chercheront et trouveront toujours des moyens à leur nuire tant qu'ils seront les maîtres.

Nous n'avons pas le moindre doute que la Commission Internationale qui siége dans Plovdiv ne soit animée de désirs les plus louables, et nous sommes persuadé qu'elle élaborera sur le papier un règlement libéral et qui fera honneur aux talents de ses membres. Mais qui est-ce qui appliquera ce règlement? N'est-ce pas le Vali nommé par le Sultan? Ne sont-ce pas la milice et la gendarmerie dont les officiers seront des instruments de la Porte? C'est-à-dire, n'est-ce pas les mêmes hommes qui avaient à appliquer les réformes octroyées par le fameux Hatti-Houmaïoun? Si nous voyons dans les pays les plus civilisés du monde l'autorité faire souvent prévaloir ses plans malgré la volonté contraire du pays, que serait-ce dans l'Orient, où l'autorité est tout et le citoyen rien?

Les seules garanties d'une bonne administration ce sont les droits politiques ; sans droits politiques on est le jouet de l'autorité ; on est sa victime lorsque cette autorité est systématiquement hostile et ennemie du pays. Le Congrès de Berlin, ayant privé la Bulgarie du sud de tout droit politique, l'ayant soumis sous l'autorité militaire et politique du Sultan, il a été jeté base à une administration qui fut en état de nous satisfaire.

Non, les Bulgares ne peuvent plus, ne doivent plus remettre leur dos sous le pied

des Turcs ; ils ont assez souffert pour avoir le droit d'être complétement indépendants du joug Turc et l'Europe est assez humaine pour ne pas permettre que quelque Puissance entreprit de les soumettre sous la tyrannie de Stamboul. Si en supposant même que cette dernière éventualité dût se réaliser, le moins mal pour les Bulgares serait s'ils faisaient payer cher leur extermination aux armées envahissantes. Parce que du régime que le Congrès de Berlin leur impose ils doivent s'attendre au même sort ; à une extermination, peut-être, lent, mais dans tous les cas, sûre.

Nous sommes fermement persuadé que MM. les Commissaires pour l'organisation de la Bulgarie du sud nous veulent tout le bien possible et qu'ils feraient beaucoup pour notre malheureuse patrie s'ils étaient libres à le faire, s'ils n'étaient pas liés par les clauses du Traité de Berlin. Aujourd'hui ils ne peuvent travailler qu'à notre perte.

No. 313.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 87.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November 2, 1878.*

THIS day there was a sitting of the Commission.

The Finance Committee asked for urgency on the inclosed motion. As urgency can only be granted by unanimity, and as the Russian Commissioner refused it, the discussion was adjourned.

After some discussion as to the division of our labours, not of general interest, the Turkish Commissioner laid on the table a copy of their proposed Règlement. The Russians also communicated the regulations and instructions already in force. These being very voluminous, I cannot, I fear, send a copy by the messenger. They were ordered to be printed.

M. de Kallay was requested to prepare heads of discussion for the Règlement, &c., general principles, to be followed by titles of chapters, into which the discussion is to be divided.

Abro Effendi then produced his promised motion on the repatriation of the refugees, of which I have the honour herewith to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 313.

Motion proposed by the Finance Committee.

Le Comité des Finances a l'honneur de soumettre à la Commission le Projet de Résolution suivant, pour lequel il demande urgence :—

Résolution.

La Commission invite son Président à bien vouloir notifier à M. le Gouverneur-Général Civil et Militaire de la Roumélie Orientale la nomination du Directeur-Général des Finances, et à prier son Excellence d'informer officiellement de ce fait les Chefs de l'Administration Financière actuellement en fonctions dans la province, en leur enjoignant :—

1. De reconnaître le dit Directeur-Général comme le Chef provisoire de tous les services financiers de la Roumélie Orientale ;

2. De lui remettre sans délai la caisse, ainsi que les archives de l'Administration qu'il est chargé de diriger ;

3. De lui prêter leur concours pour l'accomplissement de sa tâche pendant la période de transition.

La Commission invite en outre son Président à prier son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général Civil et Militaire de porter à la connaissance des Administrations Civiles, Judiciaires, et Militaires et de la population, par tous les moyens en usage dans la province pour les publications officielles :—

1. Le texte de la Résolution par laquelle, dans sa séance du 17 Octobre dernier, la

Commission Européenne s'est directement saisie de la gestion des finances de la Roumélie Orientale, conformément à l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin;

2. La formation d'un Comité des Finances chargé de pourvoir à tous les emplois financiers, autres que celui de Directeur-Général, et de prendre connaissance de tous les actes de l'Administration Financière, laquelle reste placée sous sa surveillance et sous son contrôle;

3. La nomination du Directeur-Général et son entrée en fonctions.

Inclosure 2 in No. 313.

Motion of the Turkish Commissioners for the Repatriation of the Refugees.

1. Les réfugiés ont le droit de rentrer librement dans la Roumélie Orientale, et de s'établir de nouveau dans les localités qu'ils habitaient auparavant.

Leurs personnes, leur honneur, et leurs biens doivent être pleinement sauvegardés.

Ceux que le Gouvernement Ottoman a armés pour son service pendant la guerre, et ceux qu'il a employés à un titre quelconque, ne doivent pas être inquiétés.

Le principe de la parité de traitement dans les mesures de police doit être strictement appliqué par rapport aux réfugiés rentrés dans la province, et aux autres éléments de la population.

Les ci-devant réfugiés, habitant des bourgs ou villages, ont pleine liberté de vaquer aux travaux des champs, et d'aller d'un endroit à un autre, notamment de se rendre au siége de l'Administration.

Toute facilité doit être laissé aux ci-devant réfugiés pour qu'ils puissent se procurer des instruments de labour et des semailles.

Ils peuvent, comme par le passé, user du droit d'affouage dans les forêts communales ou appartenant à l'Etat.

Les réfugiés de retour doivent être remis, le plus promptement possible, en possession de leurs immeubles.

Pour établir leur droit à cette réintégration, il leur suffit de prouver qu'ils étaient en possession des dits immeubles à l'époque où ils ont été obligés de s'éloigner. La présomption de propriété résultant de cette possession ne peut être renversée que par des titres intérieurs à la dite époque, réintégrant les mêmes immeubles et établissant qu'ils appartiennent à une autre ou à d'autres personnes.

Les céréales et approvisionnements de toute nature appartenant à des ci-devant réfugiés, qui auront été prises par des tiers ou séquestrés par l'autorité, devront être restituées à leurs propriétaires. A défaut de restitution en nature, le prix en sera payé en espèce aux cours de l'époque de la mainmise.

Les réfugiés dont le retour est retardé le droit d'envoyer dans la province des mandataires, ou d'en choisir parmi les habitants du pays. Leurs droits sont les mêmes que ceux des réfugiés déjà rapatriés. Aucun empêchement ne doit être opposé aux mandataires dans l'accomplissement de leur mandat.

2. Une sous-Commission spécialement déléguée par la Commission Européenne veille et pourvoit au rapatriement des réfugiés.

La sous-Commission institue et nomme des agents dans les parties de l'Empire où il y a actuellement des agglomérations de réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale. Ces agents ont un caractère public, et sont accrédités auprès des autorités auxquelles ils peuvent réclamer aide et assistance pour l'accomplissement de leur mission.

Les agents de la sous-Commission délivrent des passes officielles, valables comme passeports et feuille de route, moyennant lesquelles les réfugiés doivent être admis à pénétrer et à circuler librement dans la province.

La sous-Commission institue et nomme dans la province, au chef-lieu de chaque sandjak, et dans toutes autres localités où besoin sera, des Commissions Locales qui lui servent d'organes.

Les Commissions Locales connaissent de toutes affaires et de tous litiges concernant les réfugiés rapatriés ou non rapatriés. Toute dénonciation, toute plainte, toute réclamation formée, soit par des réfugiés rapatriés ou par des mandataires de réfugiés non rapatriés, soit contre eux, doivent être préalablement soumises à ces Commissions.

Les décisions des Commissions Locales peuvent être déférées à la sous-Commission Spéciale, qui, selon la gravité ou l'importance du cas, statue elle-même ou en réfère à la Commission Européenne.

No. 314.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 15.*)

(No. 88.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November 2, 1878.*

THE Russian Government have appointed M. Davidoff, once attached to the Russian Embassy in London, Diplomatic Agent at Sofia.

The appointment of Agents such as M. Davidoff and Prince Tzeretelew is made very irregularly, there being no Government but the Russian in the Principality and the province.

The selection of Prince Tzeretelew was announced to the Porte in a *note verbale*, and no application has been made for an exequatur. Without this authorization he has commenced his functions in a formal manner, and with much ceremony, inviting the other Consuls to an official reception on his assuming the office of Consul-General of Russia, "dans la province dite la Roumélie Orientale."

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 315.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 15.*)

(No. 89.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose some extracts translated into French from the "Maritza."

The story of my conversation with the Greek deputation is wholly and absolutely false.

Your Lordship will see the opinions disseminated by the official organs of the Government.

I also inclose a copy of the "Maritza" itself, in case your Lordship should like to read the articles which have appeared in French, in addition to those to which I have called your Lordship's special attention.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 315.

Extracts from the "Maritza."

A PHILIPPOPOLI on raconte qu'une députation Grecque s'est rendu chez Mr. Drummond Wolff, le Commissaire Anglais, pour le catéchiser. Le Métropolitain Grec a dit à son Excellence qu'il ne faut pas oublier que Philippopoli est fondée par Philippe, Roi de Macédoine. "Oui," répond le Commissaire Anglais, "je le connais bien; mais les Macédoniens n'étaient pas des Grecs; de ça résulte que le Philippopoli aussi n'a été jamais une ville Grecque."

LES DÉLÉGUÉS BULGARES.—Chacun sait que les notables Bulgares ont signé une protestation, avec laquelle eux, au nom de tout le peuple, rejettent les décisions iniques que le Congrès de Berlin a faits pour notre patrie. Cette protestation devait être envoyée aux Grandes Puissances Européennes par l'intermédiaire de leurs Envoyés à Constantinople. On sait que pour délégués Bulgares, qui devaient remettre la protestation dite où il fallait ont été choisis, MM. ————, qui se sont rendus à Constantinople et ont remplis leur mission.

* * * * * *

L'Envoyé Anglais a reçu très-mal les délégués Bulgares; il ne leur a permis de dire pas un seul mot sur les causes qui font que la nation Bulgare ne soit pas content du Traité de Berlin, et il a exprimé les calomnies les plus grandes contre la nation dite. Nous ne doutons pas que Mr. Layard est mal disposé envers les Bulgares à

cause de raisons politiques; il est aussi sûr que les Consuls Anglais, par leurs rapports faux et calomnieux, ont beaucoup aidé pour son irritation excessive contre les Bulgares. Les délégués Bulgares ont rejeté toutes ses calomnies, et lui ont déposé que les Bulgares ne sont pas tant insensés pour qu'ils veulent se compromettre devant l'opinion publique de l'Europe par des indécences, et que ce qu'on voit s'écrin contre eux est calomnieux ou bien exagéré. Outre cela ils lui ont adressé par écrit une réfutation seconde aux calomnies les plus graves contre nos homogènes. Cette réfutation nous publions en Français dans notre numéro d'aujourd'hui.

Nous savons très-bien que nos compatriotes tremblent et s'évanouissent sur la seule idée qu'il est possible que les autorités féroces de la Turquie et les fonctionnaires austères Turques soient de retour ici dans la Bulgarie du sud (Roumélie). Chacun de nous sait très-bien que cette tribu sauvage et cruelle ne veut et ne peut pas devenir des hommes, comme le loup ne peut pas devenir doux comme un agneau, ne peut pas changer ses mœurs mauvais. C'est pour cela que nous n'attendons pas rien de bon de son retour chez nous.

Mais quoiqu'il en soit, que faire?

Voici, la Commission pour l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale est déjà à Philippopoli, et, comme on nous avertit, sa pluralité des voix est favorable, non pas pour ceux qui, dans une distance de 500 années ont souffert, qui ont versés des larmes amères, et avec impatience ont attendu le jour lumineux de leur délivrance, en un mot, qui pendant cinq siècles ont été couverts de noir; mais elle est favorable pour ceux bêtes antropoformes qui, pendant de tant de siècles, ne faisaient que tuer, égorger, et prendre les Bulgares; qui étaient la tache de l'humanité et déshonneur de la civilisation Européenne.

* * * * * * *

Donc, dans des circonstances pareilles il faut nous préparer énergiquement pour défendre notre liberté et pour rejeter les essais que la Commissionaura à faire dans la Roumélie Orientale ainsi nommée. Ces essais seront pour notre dommage, parce qu'ils penchent vers ça: de nous mettre de nouveau sous le joug insupportable des Turcs. Cette Commission est venu probablement non pas pour organiser, mais pour désorganiser l'ordre de notre pays; est venu, on pourra le dire, avec l'intention d'enlever la liberté aux Bulgares, qui, dans ces cas, préfèrent mourir que de se laisser de nouveau à la volonté des autorités Turques, des brigands. Cette Commission fera un acte très-philanthropique si elle allait rechercher les massacres qui ont lieu même dans les environs du Constantinople et punir là les coupables, et non pas nous donner de nouveau l'administration Turque, sous laquelle nous sommes gémis dans l'espace de cinq siècles entiers. Notre nation sait très-bien que des Turcs elle n'a pas à attendre rien de bon; c'est pour cela qu'elle volontairement ne consentira jamais à les avoir comme administrateurs. Elle-même a même fait le proverbe: "Du Turc point de bon."

No. 316.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 90.) *Philippopolis, November 4*, 1878.

My Lord,

I beg to inclose a petition and translation presented to me by some Bulgarians, which, at their request, I transmit to your Lordship.

I informed these petitioners that their prayer was beyond the competency of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 316.

Petition.

Excellence,

APRÈS quatre siècles d'un esclavage sans pareil, l'infortuné peuple Bulgare se crut enfin délivré, par le Traité de San Stéfano, du joug le plus hideux, grâce à la pitié

que son sort inspira à l'Europe Chrétienne, grâce surtout aux généreux efforts, aux sacrifices inouïs de la grande nation sœur.

Mais pendant que nous remercions Dieu du bien inappréciable de jouir aussi à notre tour des droits d'hommes, les décisions du Congrès de Berlin, remettant tout en question, nous frappèrent, soudain, comme un coup de foudre: l'inquiétude s'empara de tous les esprits et cruel fut notre désenchantement.

Au lieu de voir sanctionner un Traité consenti par la Sublime Porte, un Traité qui seul pouvait aussi offrir un gage de paix à l'Orient; le peuple Bulgare apprit avec stupeur que le Congrès de Berlin venait de lui créer la plus factice des situations, dans le but de perpétuer dans notre malheureuse patrie un régime barbare.

Et pourquoi cette flagrante injustice? Pourquoi, si ce n'est pour sauvegarder certains intérêts inavouable, qui, à la honte de l'humanité et de la civilisation, semblent exiger le rétablissement d'un état de choses condamné sans rétour par l'univers tout entier.

De quel droit dispose-t-on de nous comme d'un vil troupeau? Au nom de quel droit prétend-on mettre de nouveau nos biens, notre vie, et notre honneur à la merci de ces hommes sanguinaires dont les forfaits sont encore présent à la mémoire de tous.

Nous prétendons au droit de vivre en hommes. Si c'est contraire aux intérêts de l'Europe civilisée, elle est puissante, qu'elle déchaine sur nous toutes les horreurs d'une lutte à mort, mais qu'elle ne s'imagine pas que nous puissions jamais consentir à nous soumettre de nouveau à la domination des hordes d'assassins et d'incendiaires qui, par leurs cruautés, ont fait tréssaillir d'épouvante toute l'Europe.

Quant à nous, habitants de Koprivchtiza, Panagurichté, Klissoura, et autre localités environnantes, nous avons encore des griefs tout spéciaux à exposer.

La frontière pour la Principauté Bulgare du Traité de Berlin est indiquée par la nature même; c'est la chaine de montagnes de Sredna Gora, qui, passant à l'est de Koprivchtiza va se réunir au Despoto-Dagh.

Mais le Congrès l'ayant, au contraire, fixée dans la plaine de Slatitza, une telle délimitation, outre qu'elle nous priverait de la tranquillité, nous condamnerait encore d'une ruine certaine et complète.

En effet, par suite de la conformation topographique de notre région, nous sommes forcés d'être en relations continues avec le district de Sophia, où nous faisons toutes nos provisions, de sorte que notre séparation de la Principauté nous créerait les plus grandes difficultés pour nous procurer les objets de première nécessité. En outre, comme nous sommes contraints à chercher au dehors nos moyens de subsistance, ce qui entraîne des allées et venues incessantes; nous serions fatalement condamnés à la famine ou à l'émigration si une barrière plus infranchissable était élevée entre nous et les environs. Et quelle barrière plus infranchissable peut-on s'imaginer que la présence d'une garnison Turque animée d'un esprit de vengeance indomptable, rendant par ses violences et ses méfaits toutes nos communications avec le dehors impossibles?

Nous osons donc élever notre faible voix pour signaler les graves dangers que produirait inévitablement tout essai de nous séparer de la Principauté Bulgare à laquelle la nature elle-même nous unit, et d'établir dans notre contrée quelque garnison Turque.

Nous avons le ferme espoir que l'Europe Chrétienne, voyant que les traces du sang de milliers d'innocentes victimes ne sont pas encore effacées du sol, que la plupart des survivants croupissent encore sur les décombres de leurs maisons, se laissera toucher par les supplications de ces localités tant éprouvées.

En vous priant de vouloir prendre en considération bienveillante notre pétition, nous avons l'honneur de demeurer avec le plus profond respect, &c.

(Les habitants de Koprivchtiza, Panagurichté, Klissoura, et des environs.)

No. 317.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 91.) *Philippopoli, November 4*, 1878.

My Lord,

INCLOSED is a letter from M. Fernandez, the Head of the Jewish community of Constantinople.

The petition to which he alluded is the same as that inclosed in my despatch No. 76 of the 29th ultimo.

I also have the honour to inclose a petition from some Greek refugees from Turkey proper, asking to be sent home, as order is restored in their village.

Further, I inclose a copy of a petition from the sons of Arif Agha and Shaban Agha, to which I beg to call your Lordship's special attention.

I have also to transmit copy of an Armenian petition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 317.

M. Fernandez to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Monsieur, *Alliance Israélite Universelle, le 1er Novembre*, 1878.

JE regrette vivement de n'avoir pas pu vous voir pour vous souhaiter le bon voyage le jour de votre départ pour Philippoli; mais, encouragé par votre affabilité, votre bienveillant accueil, et l'intérêt que vous portez à mes coreligionnaires, je crois de mon devoir de vous remettre ci-inclus la traduction d'un document que les Bulgares avaient voulu faire signer par le Grand Rabbin et la Communauté Israélite de Philippopoli.

Les Israélites n'ont pas voulu signer la pièce avant de prendre mon avis, et moi je leur ai conseillé de temporiser jusqu'à votre arrivée, et suivre les sages conseils que dans leur intérêt vous jugerez convenable de leur donner.

Ainsi que vous le verrez, les Bulgares prétendent que la Commission Internationale dont vous faite partie n'ai rien à changer à l'Etat des choses actuel et naturellement il s'en suivrait que mes coreligionnaires viendraient à perdre de cette manière leurs droits civiles. D'un autre côté, par leur refus, il y aurait le danger pour eux de se mettre encore plus mal avec les Bulgares. Très-prochainement je vous ferai parvenir le catalogue des propriétés des habitants de Kézanlik et Eski-Zagra, qui, au nombre de 900 environ, se trouvent ici dans la plus complète misère. Ainsi que vous le verrez, c'est un grand travail qui m'a fait perdre beaucoup de temps.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) S. FERNANDEZ.

Inclosure 2 in No. 317.

Petition from Tzikerdieli Greek Refugees.

A Messieurs les Membres composant la Commission Internationale pour l'Organisation de la Roumélie Orientale.

Messieurs,

LES Soussignés, habitants du village Tzikerdieli de la Province Ortakeui, après le départ de l'armée Russe de notre pays, ayant quitté nos foyers de peur des Musulmans qui revenaient et qui, comme nous avons appris, avient commis des méfaits aux endroits voisins, nous sommes venus ici. Mais ayant appris que l'ordre a été rétabli maintenant, nous prions la Commission, si elle sait que vraiment il y a sécurité aux dits endroits, de vouloir bien nous fournir les moyens de retourner à nos foyers, ce dont nous lui serons reconnaissants pour toute la vie.

Nous avons, &c.
(Suivent 24 signatures en Arménien.)

Philippopoli, le 19 Octobre, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 317.

Petition from the Sons of Arif Agha and Shaban Agha.

À la Commission Européenne chargé de l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale.

LES pères des soussignés Hadji Shaban Agha et Hadji Aarif Agha, notables de Philippopoli, ayant été traduits sur fausses accusations devant la Cour Martiale institué par les autorités Russes, furent contrairement à toute justice condamnés à la peine capitale.

A la suite des représentations faites de la part du Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte dont nous relevons auprès de Sa Majesté Impériale l'Empereur des Russes, sur cet arrêt contraire aux dispositions du Traité de Berlin, l'Ambassade Impérinle de Russie vient d'informer la Sublime Porte, que Sa Majesté Impériale l'Empereur les a amnistiés sous la condition qu'ils doivent quitter pour toujours la Roumélie.

Quinze jours sont écoulés depuis cette communication, et cependant les dits individus amnistiés, loin d'être mis en liberté, ont été liés en chaînes, pieds et mains, et après avoir été maltraités, vont être exilés en Russie.

En attendant ils se trouvent emprisonnés à Sophia. Il est hors de doute que les Commissaires des Grandes Puissances, dans leur sentiment de justice et de compassion, ne toléreront pas que de personnes âgées de 70 à 80 ans, et incapables de supporter tant de tortures, soient injustement condamnées à une existence qui ne diffère pas de la mort; ce qui serait d'ailleurs un acte contraire aux lois civilisatrices et humanitaires de l'Europe.

Nous venons en conséquence implorer la justice et la compassion des membres éminents de la Commission pour que les individus dont il s'agit soient délivrés de pareilles tortures, et mi, en libertés et envoyés à Constantinople pour être rendus à leurs familles, qui comptent plus de 100 âmes, qui béniront les noms de leurs bienfaiteurs.

(Signé) MEHMET, *Fils de Hadji Chaban.*
ISMAIL, *Fils de Haji Aarif.*

Inclosure 4 in No. 317.

Petition from Armenians.

Excellence,

NOUS, habitants de la Roumélie Orientale, de nationalité Arménienne, prenons la liberté de soumettre aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances nos justes vœux, dans le ferme espoir que l'Europe éclairée, s'inspirant des intérêts de l'humanité et de la civilisation, voudra bien les prendre en sérieuse considération.

Pleinement satisfaits de l'organisation dont nous jouissons depuis quelques mois, nous ne saurions envisager, sans éprouver les plus vives inquiétudes, tout changement susceptible de favoriser le retour d'un régime qui a attiré sur ce malheureux pays tant de souffrances inouïes.

Nous profitons donc de la présence de cette ville de la Haute Commission Européenne pour la supplier de prendre en considération sérieuse l'état actuel, tout en prospérité, de notre pays sous une administration basée sur des lois justes et respectées, et son passé triste et malheureux, et lui donner une telle administration qui puisse faire l'ordre, la tranquillité et assurer le bonheur dans l'avenir.

Dans la pleine confiance que vous daignerez prêter à la présente votre attention bienveillante, nous avons, &c.

(Suivent 11 signatures.)

Philippopoli, le 1er Novembre, 1878.

No. 318.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 15.*)

(No. 92.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November 4*, 1878.

YESTERDAY I saw a Bulgarian gentleman who knows the province well.

He assures me that the political excitement which exists prevails in the town and not in the country districts, and that he believes the Turks would not be ill treated by the Bulgarians if not instigated by Russia. He says that the Bulgarian peasants do not like the military service which is forced on them, and that the attempts of the Russians to obtains amateur soldiers in addition to the militia are not successful.

He is of opinion that if some means were found to rectify the erroneous statements propagated by the Russians, the people would welcome a sound form of Government when proposed by the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 319.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 93.)
Philippopolis, November 5, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter I have received from Baron Henry de Worms, on the subject of the Jewish refugees now at Constantinople.

In addition to these, there are now at Philippopolis about 500 refugees from Carlovo.

I also inclose a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 319.

Baron de Worms to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Carlton Club, October 22, 1878.

My dear Wolff,

THE subjoined paragraph is from a letter written by an influential correspondent of the Anglo-Jewish Association, of which body I am President. It speaks for itself, and I am convinced that with your high sense of justice you will propose measures for resuscitating the poor sufferers in possession of their lands, and for fully satisfying those legitimate claims they may have to advance against their despoilers. Should you think it necessary that a special representation on behalf of the dispossessed Jewish refugees should be made to Her Majesty's Government, kindly send me an intimation to that effect.

Thanking you for any steps you may take to relieve the distress of my unfortunate co-religionists in the East, believe me, &c.,

(Signed) H. DE WORMS.

"*Constantinople, November 27.*

(Extract.)

"There are still nearly 1,000 Jewish sufferers from Eski-Zaghra and Kyanlik who are dependent on relief, and cannot be sent back to their native places. Their homes are destroyed, or like the fields of some of them, appropriated by the Bulgarians. The exiles can barely recognize the spots which once belonged to them, the ruin having been effected to a frightful extent, and the landmarks of their fields having been totally removed."

The writer continues with the request that Her Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs should be solicited to instruct Her Majesty's Commissioner in East Roumelia that he should protect to the widest extent the claims of the dispossessed refugees; such instruction would, in the opinion of the writer, greatly tend to attain the ends of justice.

Inclosure 2 in No. 319.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to Baron de Worms.

Philippopolis, November 5, 1878.

My dear Worms,

YOUR letter of the 22nd October reached me here yesterday.

I have been, and still am, in communication with M. Fernandez, the head of the Jewish community at Constantinople, on the subject of the repatriation of the Jewish refugees from Eastern Roumelia. The difficulties of their position are much complicated by the obstacles raised by the Russian authorities against the repatriation of the large numbers of Mussulmans who have left the country. The question will shortly be brought forward in the Commission, and you may rely on my personal anxiety to assist these unhappy persons to return to their homes, and recover their possessions.

At the same time you will see that the Commission can only act in a body. If pressure is to be brought to bear on the Russian authorities, it can only be done by the Governments themselves, either by representations at St. Petersburgh or by identical instructions to their Commissioners, or rather by both means.

I have told the Jewish community here how glad I shall be at all times to receive their suggestions, and to act on them as far as I am able.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—I am writing by this mail to Lord Salisbury on the subject.

H. D. W.

No. 320.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 94.) [B.B.]
Philippopolis, November 5, 1878.

My Lord,

AT the Commission yesterday M. Kallay proposed the scheme, to serve as a basis of our labours, which he had been charged at the previous meeting to elaborate.

Inclosed is a copy of these proposals.

Prince Tzeretelow raised a question on the paragraph of the scheme relative to the Treaty of Berlin, and contended that there were cases in which the Commission should pronounce opinions on the Treaty.

I did not take any great part in the discussion, which was ably sustained by the Austrian and French Commissioners. It ended in the insertion of the words "le texte" before the words "Traité de Berlin," and, with this exception, the first part of the scheme was adopted unanimously.

We then discussed the financial proposals, a copy of which was inclosed in my No. 87, and which were adopted with one verbal and perfectly insignificant amendment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 320.

M. de Kallay's Plan of Procedure for the Commission.

LA discussion générale devra se diviser en deux parties: une première, théorique, sur les principes qui devront guider le travail de la Commission; la seconde, pratique, dans laquelle nous fixerons l'ordre des matières que le statut organique de la Roumélie Orientale devra embrasser.

Les principes d'après lesquels je voudrais que le travail de la Commission s'accomplît sont les suivants:—

I.—*Partie.*

A. Les dispositions du Traité de Berlin (Articles XIII, XXII, et LXII) devront trouver leur stricte application dans le travail de la Commission, qui s'interdit d'avance d'en provoquer le changement et s'impose la tâche de les avoir sans cesse présentes à l'esprit, pour l'élaboration du statut organique de la province.

B. Conformément à l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, les lois sur les vilayets, ainsi que les propositions faites dans la huitième séance de la Conférence de Constantinople, devront servir de point de départ au travail de la Commission sans pourtant imposer à celle-ci l'obligation de s'y tenir strictement. La Commission se croit au contraire en droit de les modifier dans toutes leurs dispositions qui ne répondraient pas selon elle à l'Etat, ou aux besoins du pays.

C. La Commission s'efforcera de donner à la Roumélie Orientale une organisation répondant, autant que les circonstances le permettent, à l'esprit qui a dicté les institutions des pays de l'Europe occidentale, afin que la province puisse s'associer au mouvement de la civilisation moderne et participer à ses bienfaits.

En conséquence la Commission s'appliquera à assurer au pays de la manière la plus large:—

1. La sûreté des personnes et des biens.
2. Une justice indépendante, prompte, et impartiale.
3. Un système d'impôts et une administration financière, conformes aux données de la science économique moderne.
4. Des institutions de crédit, ainsi qu'un régime industriel et commercial, propre à développer la prospérité publique et individuelle.
5. Des voies de communication perfectionnées.
6. La liberté et la parfaite égalité des cultes, avec une réglementation équitable des Rapports entre les différentes communautés religieuses et l'État.
7. Un système d'éducation publique qui respecte les droits et les intérêts des différentes communautés religieuses et garantisse en même temps l'essor intellectuel de la population.
8. Une réglementation libérale des questions de presse.
9. Une juste participation de toutes les classes de la population à la vie publique, ainsi qu'une représentation populaire, adaptée aux besoins du pays.
10. Un pouvoir exécutif fortement constitué, mais néanmoins soumis à un contrôle efficace.
11. Une administration civile qui concilie dans une manière équitable les intérêts de l'Etat avec ceux des particuliers.

D. Considérant toutefois que les institutions politiques d'un Etat de l'occident, si parfaites qu'elles puissent être, ne répondraient ni aux besoins, ni au développement historique, ni aux habitudes de la population, qu'elles ne serait sans doute pas même comprises par celle-ci et courraient par conséquent risque de demeurer lettre morte à bien des égards, la Commission n'entend introduire telles quelles en Roumélie Orientale les institutions d'aucune nation occidentale, mais appliquera ses efforts à réaliser le programme développé sous la rubric C, en créant une œuvre qui réponde aux besoins indigènes et à l'état des esprits.

E. Le Congrès de Berlin s'est donné pour mission de créer en Orient un équilibre stable, en conciliant autant que possible les intérêts et les prétentions contraires des diverses nationalités qui l'habitent, et des cultes qui y sont professés. S'inspirant de son exemple la Commission, en tenant compte des droits légitimes de la majorité, veillera cependant à ce que ceux de la minorité soient également sauvegardés.

2.—*Partie.*

Statut Organique de la Province. Division des matérieux que ce Statut devra embrasser :—

I. Droit public et priviléges de la province.
II. Droit des citoyens.
III. Droits et attributions du Gouverneur-Général.
  (*a.*) Vis-à-vis de l'Empire.
  (*b.*) Vis-à-vis de la province.
IV. Pouvoir Exécutif.
  (*a.*) Division des services publics et définition de leur compétence.
  (*b.*) Nomination et révocation des fonctionnaires.
V. Représentation du people.
  (*a.*) Droits et attributions de cette représentation.
  (*b.*) Sa compétence.
  (*c.*) Mode de nomination de ses membres.
VI. Finances.
  (*a.*) Impôts directs.
  (*b.*) Contributions indirectes.
  (*c.*) Mines.
  (*d.*) Eaux et forêts.
  (*e.*) Douanes et octrois.
  (*f.*) Monopoles.
  (*g.*) Voies de communication, travaux publics.
  (*h.*) Postes et télégraphes.
  (*i.*) Agriculture, commerce, et industrie.
  (*j.*) Institutions de crédit.
VII. Administration Civile.
  (*a.*) Division administrative de la province.
  (*b.*) Énumération des différentes autorités administratives.
  (*c.*) Leur compétence.

  (*d.*) Mode de leur nomination.
  (*e.*) Autorités appelées à juger les questions contentieuses.
VIII. Justice.
  (*a.*) Détermination des instances.
  (*b.*) Division judiciare de la province.
  (*c.*) Nombre, composition, et compétence des Tribunaux.
  (*d.*) Mode de nomination des Juges.
  (*e.*) Ministère Public.
  (*f.*) Exécution des jugements.
IX. Cultes.
  (*a.*) Relations des communautés religieuses avec l'Empire et avec la province.
  (*b.*) Relations entre les diverses communautés religieuses.
  (*c.*) Droits et devoirs politiques des ecclésiastiques et des corporations religieuses.
  (*d.*) Police des cultes.
X. Institutions Publiques.
  (*a.*) Principes généraux.
  (*b.*) Écoles provinciales et écoles relevant de l'autorité ecclésiastique.
  (*c.*) Priviléges des unes et des autres.
  (*d.*) Surveillance de l'État.
  (*e.*) Question de l'instruction obligatoire et de la gratuité des écoles.
  (*f.*) Nomination du corps enseignant en tant qu'il dépend de la province.
XI. Organisation de la milice.
XII. Organisation de la police et de la gendarmerie.
XIII. Organisation de la propriété foncière (cadastre, &c.)
XIV. Règlement concernant les droits et devoirs des employés, leur avancement, leur retraite, et l'exercice du pouvoir disciplinaire auquel ils sont soumis.

No. 321.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 95.) [B.B.]

Philippopolis, November 5, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 82 of the 20th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of the Turkish proposals, in the form in which they were laid before the Commission.

When the programme proposed by M. de Kallay is entirely adopted, the different proposals will be taken up and discussed in the order and under the distribution established by that document.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 321.

Projet de Règlement Organique de la Roumélie Orientale présenté par les Délégués Ottomans.

Article 1er. La Roumélie Orientale est divisée en sandjaks (départements).
Le sandjak est divisé en cazas (arrondissements).
Le caza est divisé en nahiés (cantons).
Le nahié se compose d'un groupe de kariés (communes).
La formation des sandjaks, des cazas, et de nahiés est faite par la Sublime Porte.

Art. 2. Les habitants de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de races et de croyances religieuses, jouissent des mêmes droits.

Les fonctions et emplois publics leur sont également accessibles, selon leurs capacités.

Les fonctionnaires et employés attachés à l'Administration de la province son pris, autant que possible, parmi ses habitants.

Art. 3. La province est gouvernée par un Gouverneur-Général, assisté d'un Conseil Administratif et par un Conseil Général.

Art. 4. Le Gouverneur-Général est nommé par la Sublime Porte pour un terme de cinq ans, conformément aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin.

Il a auprès de lui un Secrétaire-Général, nommé sur sa proposition par la Sublime Porte.

Art. 5. En cas d'absence ou de maladie du Gouverneur-Général le Secrétaire-Général le remplace pour l'expédition des affaires courantes.

En cas de vacance du poste de Gouverneur-Général ses attributions sont exercées par le Conseil Administratif.

Art. 6. Le Gouverneur-Général représente le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, envers lequel il est responsable.

Il réunit toutes les attributions du pouvoir exécutif. Il exerce ses fonctions dans toute l'étendue de la province, avec l'assistance de ses Directeurs, et au moyen des Mutessarifs, des Caïmacams, et des Mudirs.

Art. 7. Le Gouverneur-Général est assisté de sept Directeurs, savoir :—

Le Directeur de la Justice ;
Le Directeur de la Correspondance ;
Le Directeur des Finances ;
Le Directeur des Travaux Publics et du Cadastre ;
Le Directeur de l'Agriculture et du Commerce ;
Le Directeur des Domaines ;
Le Directeur des Contributions Indirectes.

Ces Directeurs ont dans leurs attributions les affaires spéciales de leur Départements respectifs.

Ils sont nommés par la Sublime Porte sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général.

Indépendamment des causes de révocation les Directeurs peuvent être remplacés à la demande du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 8. Le Secrétaire-Général et les sept Directeurs constituent le Conseil Administratif du Gouverneur-Général.

Ce Conseil se réunit sous la présidence du Gouverneur-Général. A défaut du Gouverneur-Général il est présidé par le plus ancien de ses membres. Si deux ou plusieurs membres présents ont une ancienneté égale, la présidence est dévolue au plus âgé.

Le Gouverneur-Général est tenu de prendre l'avis de son Conseil Administratif pour toute mesure non prévue par une disposition légale ou réglementaire.

Art. 9. Les fonctionnaires et employés attachés à l'Administration de la province, pour lesquels il n'est pas autrement disposé par le présent Règlement, sont nommé par le Gouverneur-Général sur la proposition du Conseil Administratif.

Art. 10. Le Conseil Général de la Roumélie Orientale se compose :—

1. De trois Délégués de chaque caza, élus pour quatre ans par la population, conformément à la Loi Electorale annexée au présent Règlement, et qui en fait partie intégrante.

2. De membres nommés pour quatre ans par le Gouverneur-Général, en nombre égal à la moitié de la totalité des membres élus par les cazas.

Cette nomination sera faite conformément à la disposition spéciale inscrite dans la Loi Electorale.

Art. 11. Le Consul-Général est renouvelé par moitié tous les deux ans, dans les mêmes conditions et dans les mêmes formes.

Ce renouvellement aura lieu par cazas; c'est-à-dire, que tous les deux ans la moitié des cazas de la province sera appelée à élire ses Délégués, et que le Gouverneur-Général désignera, comme il est dit à l'Article précédent, un nombre égal à la moitié des membres élus.

Lors du renouvellement les cazas appelés à élire leurs Délégués, et les membres sortant parmi ceux nommés par le Gouverneur-Général, seront désignés par le sort.

Art. 12. Les attributions du Conseil Général consistent :—

1. Dans la discussion et l'adoption de tous les projets de règlement qui lui seront présentés par le Gouverneur-Général, lesquels projets une fois votés devront être soumis à la sanction Impériale.

2. Dans l'examen et le vote du budget annuel de la province et dans l'examen et l'approbation des comptes de l'exercice écoulé.

3. Dans l'examen et l'adoption de tous les projets et de toutes les mesures concernant les différentes branches de l'Administration de la province ainsi que des

institutions et des entreprises intéressant l'agriculture, les travaux publics, le commerce, et l'instruction publique.

Le Conseil Général peut, en outre, par voie d'adresse, recommander au Gouverneur-Général l'étude et l'examen de toute question qui lui paraît comporter l'élaboration et la présentation d'un projet de règlement.

Art. 13. Les Directeurs pourront être délégués par le Gouverneur-Général, chacun pour ce qui concerne les affaires de sa direction, près du Conseil Général—

1. Pour prendre part à la discussion des règlements, projets, et mesures soumis aux délibérations du Conseil Général.

2. Pour fournir les informations qui leur seront demandées touchant les actes de l'Administration et l'exécution durant l'année écoulée des décisions du Conseil Général.

Art. 14. Le Conseil Général se réunit en session ordinaire une fois chaque année dans la première quinzaine du mois de

La durée de la session est de deux mois au plus.

Le Gouverneur-Général, avec l'assentiment de la Sublime Porte, a le droit de convoquer le Conseil Général en session extraordinaire dans le courant de l'année pour un objet déterminé.

Il a le droit, avec l'assentiment de la Sublime Porte, de dissoudre le Conseil Général à charge de faire procéder, dans un délai de six mois au plus, la formation et à la réunion d'un nouveau Conseil Général dans les conditions et suivant les formes réglementaires.

Art. 15. Le Président et les deux Vice-Présidents du Conseil Général sont choisis par le Gouverneur-Général parmi les dix candidats élus par le Conseil Général à la majorité des voix et au scrutin secret.

Art. 16. Pendant l'intervalle des sessions, le Conseil Général est représenté par une Commission permanente prise dans son sein et déléguée par lui.

Les membres de cette Commission au nombre de sept sont élus par le Conseil à la fin de chaque session. Pour cette élection, chaque membre du Conseil ne peut inscrire que quatre noms sur son bulletin de vote.

La Commission permanente surveille l'exécution des décisions prises par le Conseil Général; elle reçoit, quinze jours au moins avant l'ouverture de la session annuelle, communication du projet de budget ainsi que des comptes du dernier exercice, et prend connaissance de toutes pièces et documents à l'appui, elle prépare et présente au Conseil des rapports tant sur le projet de budget et sur les comptes que sur l'exécution des décisions du Conseil Général.

Art. 17. Le sandjak est administré par un Mutessarif placé sous l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général. Il est nommé par la Sublime Porte sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 18. Le Mutessarif est assisté d'un Conseil composé des trois principaux fonctionnaires du sandjak, savoir : le Mouhassebedji, leDirecteur de la Correspondance, et le Directeur du Cadastre.

Les attributions de ce Conseil sont, dans la limite des intérêts locaux du sandjak, les mêmes que celles du Conseil Administratif du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 19. Le caza est administré par un Caïmacam, agissant sous l'autorité du Mutessarif.

Il est nommé par la Sublime Porte sur la proposition du Mutessarif agréé par le Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 20. Le nahié constitue l'unité administrative de la province.

Les nahiés sont divisés en trois classes, suivant leur importance au point de vue des intérêts politiques et locaux.

Le nahié de première classe est administré par un Mudir, un Juge de Paix, et un Maire.

Dans les nahiés de deuxième classe le Maire exerce en même temps les attributions de Mudir.

Dans le nahié de troisième classe le Maire réunit à ses propres attributions celles de Mudir et de Juge de Paix.

Art. 21. Le Mudir et le Juge de Paix sont nommés par le Gouverneur-Général.

Le Maire, soit qu'il exerce ses seules fonctions, soit qu'il les cumule avec celles de Mudir et de Juge de Paix, est élu pour quatre ans par la population du nahié suivant la Loi Electorale.

Art. 22. Le Maire est assisté d'un Conseil Municipal composé de six membres élus pour quatre ans, suivant la Loi Electorale.

Art. 23. Les communes qui composent le nahié et en sont les subdivisions sont

administrées par deux Mouktars, nommés pour quatre ans par la population de la commune suivant la Loi Électorale.

Les Mouktars sont chargés de la police locale, de l'administration des biens et des intérêts communaux, et de la perception des impôts au moyen d'agents qu'ils nomment eux-mêmes.

Les impôts perçus sont versés par les Mouktars entre les mains des percepteurs des nahiés.

Les Mouktars pourront au besoin requérir du Mudir l'assistance d'un ou de plusieurs gendarmes pour assurer l'ordre public et l'exercice de leurs fonctions.

Art. 24. L'ordre public est assuré dans toute l'étendue de la province au moyen d'une gendarmerie indigène recrutée par voie d'engagements volontaires, et dont le chiffre sera déterminé d'après le besoin de chaque localité.

La province aura en outre une milice dont le mandat spécial sera d'assister au besoin la gendarmerie locale, et qui sera soumise aux lois générales militaires de l'Empire établies et à établir.

Art. 25. Pour la composition de ces deux corps il sera tenu compte, suivant les localités, de la religion des habitants.

Art. 26. Les officiers de ces deux corps sont nommés par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Art. 27. La gendarmerie est placée sous l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général, des Mutessarifs, des Caïmacams, et des Mudirs.

La milice locale est également placée sous l'autorité du Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 28. En dehors du cas de flagrant délit, aucune personne ne pourra être arrêtée que sur un mandat du pouvoir judiciaire ou sur un ordre de l'autorité exécutive représenté par le Gouverneur-Général, les Mutessarifs, les Caïmacams, et les Mudirs.

Art. 29. L'enseignement public est libre dans toute l'étendue de la Roumélie Orientale.

Il est permis à toute communauté et à toute personne jouissant de ses droits civils d'établir des écoles primaires et supérieures et de faire des cours publics sous la surveillance de l'autorité au point de vue des bonnes mœurs, de l'ordre public, et du respect des lois de l'État.

Le Conseil-Général pourra, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, fonder aux frais de la province des écoles publiques qui seront facultatives.

Art. 30. Chacun des cultes professés dans la province s'exercera librement et sera entretenue au frais de la communauté à laquelle il appartient.

Art. 31. Les lois générales de l'Empire sont applicables à la Roumélie Orientale, sauf les modifications et les compléments qui y seront apportés par une résolution du Conseil Général, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, et qui auraient été sanctionnés par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Art. 32. La justice est rendue par Tribunaux Nizamiés, Civils, Commerciaux, Criminels, et par des Juges de Paix.

La compétence des Tribunaux Civils s'étend à toutes les contestations mobilières entre les habitants indistinctement, à l'exception des matières concernant le mariage, et en général l'état civil des personnes, lesquelles matières seront déférées pour les Musulmans aux Tribunaux du Chérint, et pour les non-Musulmans aux Tribunaux de leurs communautés respectives.

Art. 33. Les Tribunaux de la Roumélie Orientale se composé:—

1. D'une Justice de Paix dans chaque nahié dont les fonctions sont exercées par un Juge de Paix dans les nahiés de première classe et dans ceux de deuxième classe, et par le Maïre dans les nahiés de troisième classe.

Le Juge de Paix, assisté de deux Assesseurs, juge en dernier ressort les contestations purement personnelles n'excédant pas 500 piastres et les délits et contravention n'entraînant pas une condamnation supérieure, à une amende de 50 piastres et à cinq jours de prison. Il juge en premier ressort les contestations purement personnelles n'excédant pas 5,000 piastres et les délits n'entraînant pas une condamnation à plus de trois mois de prison.

2. D'un Tribunal au chef-lieu de chaque sandjak composé de trois Chambres—Civile, Commerciale, et Criminelle.

Ce Tribunal connaît en dernier ressort des appels des jugements rendus en premier ressort par le Juge de Paix.

Il Juge en premier ressort toutes les contestations et tous les crimes ou délits qui lui sont déférés directement.

3. D'une Cour d'Appel unique siégeant à Philippoli divisée en trois Chambres—

Civile, Commerciale, et Criminelle, statuant respectivement sur les causes qui leur sont référées par appel des décisions des Tribunaux des chefs-lieux des sandjaks.

Un règlement spécial déterminera en matière civile les affaires autres que celles purement personnelles, dont la connaissance sera attribuée aux Juges de Paix soit en dernier ressort soit à charge d'appel.

Art. 34. Les Juges des Tribunaux et de la Cour d'Appel sont nommés par le Sultan sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général.

Ils ne peuvent être révoqués que pour manquement grave à leur devoir, constaté et signalé à la Sublime Porte par le Gouverneur-Général.

Art. 35. Les Tribunaux, en rendant la justice, sont indépendants, et ne relèvent d'aucune autre autorité que de celle de la loi.

Réciproquement, ils ne peuvent s'immiscer dans les attributions des autres autorités.

Ils leur est interdit de statuer par voie réglementaire et de censurer les actes de l'Administration.

Art. 36. La justice est rendue au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan; les audiences sont publiques; la défense est libre; les jugements et arrêts sont prononcés en séance publique; le témoignage est reçu sous serment de toute personne, sans distinction de race ou de religion.

Art. 37. Le Ministre Public est attaché aux Tribunaux et à la Cour d'Appel.

Art. 38. Les instances devant les Tribunaux sont introduites directement, sans l'intermédiaire d'aucune Administration.

Art. 39. L'exécution des jugements est dévolue aux Tribunaux qui les auront rendus. Elle aura lieu par le ministère d'huissiers, nommé par l'autorité publique.

Art. 40. Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan a seul le droit de remettre, de réduire, ou de commuer les peines prononcées par les Tribunaux criminels.

Art. 41. Les abus commis par les autorités publics pourront être déférés aux Tribunaux ordinaires par les particuliers qui se prétendront lésés.

Les contestations entre les Administrations publiques de la province, et les particuliers en matière de contrats, sont du ressort de Tribunaux ordinaires.

Art. 42. Les jugements ou arrêts sont rendus en langue Turque, mais avec une traduction officielle en langue Bulgare ou en langue Grecque, si les parties, ou l'un d'elles, appartient à l'un ou à l'autre de ces deux races.

Art. 43. Jusqu'à la réforme du régime des impôts directs et indirects actuellement en vigueur d'après les lois générales de l'Empire, ces impôts continueront à être perçus dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Le Conseil Général pourra, sur la proposition du Gouverneur-Général, apporter à chacune des branches de l'impôt direct ou indirect telles modifications qu'il jugera utile, et même transformer le système de telle ou telle contribution, sans toutefois qu'il puisse en résulter une diminution de la part contributive de la province, aux dépenses générales de l'Empire, et sauf la sanction Impériale nécessaire pour donner à ces modifications le caractère d'actes législatifs.

No. 322.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 96. [B.B.] *Philippopolis, November* 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a petition from the woman, named Fatma, referred to in my despatch No. 78 of the 29th ultimo.

I also inclose a copy of a petition from some Turks anxious to regain their homes; and I beg to call your Lordship's special attention to these two documents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF

Inclosure 1 in No. 322.

Petition of Fatma, daughter of Ali.

(Traduction.)

JE Soussignée, Fatma, fille d'Ali, domiciliée au quartier de Hafiz Pacha, à Kutchuk-Yaka (Philippopoli), ai l'honneur d'exposer ce qui suit:—

Le Samedi 14 Octobre, vers les 8 heures de la nuit, les gendarmes Bulgares Vassil, Petro et Vassil, se sont introduits de vive force dans ma maison, et ont cherché à me déshonorer.

Sur l'opposition de mon mari Ismail, les trois susnommés l'ont fait sortir hors de la maison, l'ont renversé par terre, et l'ont tellement frappé avec les talons de leurs bottes, qu'il a expiré sous leurs coups. Laissant le corps de mon mari hors de la maison, ces trois forcenés sont entrés dans ma chambre, et se sont portés sur ma personne aux derniers outrages. Mes cris redoublés ont éveillé les voisins, mais la frayeur les a empêchés de me porter secours.

Le lendemain mes voisins ont voulu enterrer mon infortuné mari; mais la police Bulgare s'y étant opposée, le corps est resté ainsi pendant trois jours. Le troisième jour deux officiers et trois médecins sont venus examiner le cadavre, l'ont ouvert, et ont reconnu que la mort avait été causée par la violence des coups. Ils ont même emporté le poumon dans un papier.

J'ai voulu venir de ce côté de la rivière porter plainte de ces faits, mais le passage du pont m'a été interdit. J'ai dû par conséquent, et à grande peine, traverser à gué la Maritza.

A raison des faits plus haut relatés je viens, au nom de l'humanité, demander à votre honorable Commission que justice soit faite, et que les auteurs de cet acte de sauvagerie inouie reçoivent la punition qu'ils ont méritée.

Si l'honorable Commission ne prend pas ma demande en considération je n'ai d'autre espoir qu'en la justice Divine.

(Signé) FATMA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 322.

Petition presented to the Commission by the Imâm of Baroa, and the Moukhtars of Dénova, Lacaonitcha, Peletit, and of Cara Mouça, Villages in the District of Rotchouz.

(Traduction.)

NOUS avons l'honneur de vous exposer ce qui suit:—

A l'arrivée des Russes nous avons abandonné nos foyers, en laissant tout ce que nous possédions; nous nous sommes décidés dernièrement à y retourner, mais nous avons trouvé nos maisons en cendres et nos villages en ruines. Nous sommes donc dans un état de misère inouie, et pourtant les autorités Russes exigent de nous le paiement d'une certaine somme qu'elles qualifient d'impôts sur les moutons.

Nous venons vous supplier d'obtenir que nous soyons exempts de cette taxe.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Philippopoli, le 18 Octobre, 1878.

No. 323.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 98.) [B.B.]

Philippopolis, November 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE learnt that Prince Dondoukoff has caused the sum of 1,500,000 fr. to be sent from this place to Sofia within the last few days.

I understand that Colonel Schepeleff, on being questioned on the matter, admitted the fact, but declared the money to be the balance of some previous transaction.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—I will send your Lordship further information on this subject, which I hope to obtain to-day.

H. D. W.

No. 324.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 100.) [B.B.]

Philippopolis, November 10, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 96 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose a Report by Mr. Simmons respecting the case of the woman Fatma.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 324.

Memorandum.

AS desired by Sir H. Drummond Wolff, I went yesterday to the other side of the Maritza river, in order to verify on the spot the truth of the appalling story recounted in the petition presented by Fatma Hanoum to the Commission, a copy of which document has been transmitted to Lord Salisbury by last messenger.

A five minutes' walk from the bridge across the river brought me to a quarter which had been inhabited mostly by the poorer class of Mussulmans, but of which not more than about a dozen houses remain standing, the rest having been razed to the ground by the Bulgarians, who, it seems, have not yet done with this unrestrained destruction, for only a few days back, with no reason whatever, another of these houses has been pulled down.

This is the quarter called Hafiz Pasha, where Fatma's husband was assassinated. I saw the house this unfortunate couple dwelt in; it is a mere hut comprising one story, with a single room, besides a small corridor and a semblance of a kitchen.

I cross-examined the few Turks living in the immediate neighbourhood of Fatma's house, eye-witnesses of the crime, and their clear answers left no doubt as to the veracity of the details contained in this woman's petition. They said the murder was perpetrated about seventeen days ago.

Between 12 and 1 o'clock at night they were startled by a great noise and loud voices, intermingled with cries for help. Not daring to show themselves out of doors at such an hour, they watched what took place from their windows, without attracting notice. It was a bright moonlight night, and they distinctly saw four persons, three of whom were Bulgarian zaptiehs. The fourth, who wore the Russian uniform, was not perceived by Fatma, for he played no active part in the drama which followed; he simply remained a spectator. I was shown the very spot where he stood while the deed was being effected.

The Bulgarians gained access to the victim's house after repeated blows on the door, which gave way. They dragged Fatma's husband out of bed and into the street, where they most brutally put him to death by kicking him all over, especially in the ribs.

The murderers then re-entered the house, and fell upon Fatma, on whom they satisfied their passions. Her cries were distinctly heard by the neighbours, but no one went to the rescue for fear of undergoing the fate of her husband.

The corpse remained untouched for three days. Previously to its being carried away by the Russian authorities one or two officers went to the spot, accompanied by two doctors, who examined the dead body, cutting out one of the lungs, which they took with them.

Fatma Hanoum had been married two years ago, and has no children. For the present, she is staying at an uncle's, on this side of the river. To get here she was obliged to wade across the river, for the authorities refused to let her pass over the bridge.

It appears that this prohibition extends to all the Moslem population on the other side of the Maritza.

(Signed) A. SIMMONS.

Philippopolis, November 8, 1878.

No. 325.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1367.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 4*, 1878.

CONSUL SANDWITH, in his despatch to me No. 135 of the 28th ultimo, a copy of which he has transmitted to your Lordship, recommends that the Porte should grant to the people of Sphakia in Crete the demands that they have made, viz., the right of collecting their own tithes, and that of settling themselves, on the death of the head of a family, questions relating to the property of the deceased in the village itself, instead of being obliged to refer them to the principal town of the Government. I have advised Safvet Pasha to accede to these two demands, which Mr. Sandwith considers to be slight concessions, and which are in conformity with privileges formerly enjoyed by the Sphakians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 326.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1369.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, November 4*, 1878.

I CALLED upon Safvet Pasha this morning, principally to urge upon him the importance of executing, with as little delay as possible, all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin that yet remained to be carried out by Turkey, and to talk the matter generally over with him.

It would appear that the only engagements which the Porte has not yet fulfilled are the surrender of Podgoritza and Spuz, the evacuation of Kotour and its territory, and the appointment of the Special Commissions for settling the details of the new Organic Laws for the Provinces of Turkey in Europe, for which provision has not been made in the Treaty.

As regards the first point, Safvet Pasha informed me that the Porte had taken measures, which he hoped would soon have a successful result, to induce the inhabitants of Podgoritza and Spuz to surrender those places. The Sultan had offered to give them other lands in Southern Albania belonging to him, upon which they might settle if they were resolved not to live under Montenegrin rule. As they could sell their property, and would obtain their new lands without paying for them, they would gain by the exchange, and his Highness trusted that they would willingly accept the proposal that had been made to them. The last time that I had the honour of seeing the Sultan he told me that this plan had suggested itself to him.

I succeeded, I think, in persuading Safvet Pasha that it would be advisable to give over at once the town of Kotour to Persia, in accordance with the Lth Article of the Treaty, in order to remove all risk of misunderstanding with that Power, and to deprive Russia of any pretext for not evacuating Bayazid and other Turkish territory held by her.

His Highness had apparently misread the Article, as he was disposed to believe that before delivering up the town as well as territory of Kotour it was necessary to ascertain what frontiers had been fixed by the Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the boundaries of Turkey and Persia. I pointed out to his Highness that this referred to the territory of Kotour, and not to the town. His Highness then agreed to surrender the latter at once, and to give up the former as soon as he had learnt the decision of the Commission, for which he had requested me to apply to your Lordship.

With reference to the Special Commissions for settling the Organic Laws for the Provinces of Turkey, not provided for in the Treaty, his Highness said he had decided upon appointing a Commission to sit at Constantinople to frame these laws, taking for their groundwork the constitutions about to be given to Crete and Eastern Roumelia. They would subsequently be submitted to the Special Commissions, as required by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty.

His Highness consulted me as to the members of the Commission. The selection that his Highness ended by making appears to me a very good one, as it includes several Christians who have special knowledge of the provinces for which they are to legislate, such as Alexander Carathéodory Pasha, who will probably be President, Vurpa Effendi, an Albanian, Constant Pasha, and others. His Highness said that as soon as the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia had completed the Organic Law for that province the laws for the other parts of Turkey in Europe would be settled.

Safvet Pasha expressed his hope that the Porte was thus showing its sincere desire to execute all its engagements under the Treaty of Berlin, and that Her Majesty's Government would be satisfied with its conduct in the matter. I replied that I should have much pleasure in informing your Lordship of its good intentions in this respect, and I added that I trusted that I might at the same time give assurances to Her Majesty's Government that his Highness was equally desirous of putting into execution, as soon as possible, the reforms which the Sultan had agreed to introduce into his Asiatic dominions.

His Highness answered that I might do so with confidence. It was his firm intention to carry out at once those reforms, as far as the means at the disposal of the Porte would allow. The Council of Ministers, his Highness went on to say, was about to occupy itself at once with the examination of the regulations for the new gendarmerie, and he hoped that they would soon be settled and put into execution.

I am bound to say that I found every disposition on the part of Safvet Pasha to meet the views and wishes of Her Majesty's Government on all the subjects which I brought to his notice. His Highness, however, observed that the Porte had very great difficulties to contend with as long as Russia occupied Turkish territory which she was bound to evacuate and maintained her present attitude. His Highness said that Prince Labanoff was constantly pressing him to conclude a definite Treaty with Russia, and that he would be very grateful to your Lordship if you would give him your advice as to the course he should pursue.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 327.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1370. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 4*, 1878.

CONSUL KIRBY GREEN, in his despatch to your Lordship, Political, No. 83, of the 22nd ultimo (a copy of which has been transmitted to me), states that he has no hesitation in attributing to the Valis of Kossova and Scutari an occult guidance of the proceedings of the National Albanian League. I brought this statement to-day to the notice of Safvet Pasha. His Highness very frankly admitted that Hussein Pasha, the Governor of Scutari, had gone much too far in leading the Albanians to believe that they would be supported in resisting the decision of the Congress as regards the surrender of their territory, and had compromised himself by doing so. His Highness went on to say that Hussein Pasha belonged to the old school, and that his telegrams and reports were not satisfactory, but that it would not be prudent at the present moment to dismiss him, as to do so might give rise to tumults and disorders which might even endanger the life of his successor. The Porte was now employing a person in whom it had complete confidence, and who possessed a good deal of influence over the Albanians, to induce them to accept the arrangement which I have described in my despatch No. 1369.

Mr. Kirby Green further mentions a report that Sheikh Mustafa, of Kalkandelé, had been sent on a mission to Constantinople by the Albanians, and had been received with great honour by the Sultan, who had given him an Imperial Firman as a mark of His Majesty's goodwill. According to another report, referred to by Mr. Green, he had been ordered by His Majesty to endeavour to pacify the existing public agitation in Albania.

From the account given to me by the Sultan himself of Sheikh Mustafa's visit to Constantinople, which I reported to your Lordship, the latter report is nearer the truth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 328.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1371. Confidential.)

Therapia, November 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from a despatch from the French Consul at Adrianople, which M. Fournier has been so good as to communicate to me confidentially relative to the Russian forces in the neighbourhood of that town, and the proceedings of Bulgarian emissaries.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 328.

The French Consul at Adrianople to M. Fournier.

Andrinople, le 28 Octobre, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

AINSI que j'ai eu l'honneur de l'annoncer à votre Excellence, dans ma dépêche en date du 21 de ce mois, beaucoup de troupes sont arrivées à Andrinople.

Nous avons actuellement dans la ville, et sur les hauteurs qui l'environnent, plus de 40,000 soldats appartenant à différentes armes.

D'après les renseignements qui me sont donnés par les fournisseurs de pain, dont l'un est un négociant protégé Français de cette ville, ce chiffre serait exact, car, depuis une semaine, l'Intendance leur prend tous les jours de 30,000 à 35,000 rations.

Ces spéculateurs ont reçu, de plus, l'ordre de se mettre en mesure pour pouvoir fournir, au besoin, jusqu'à 70,000 pains par jour.

Aucun mouvement n'a été opéré dans le corps du Général Skobeleff, qui continue à occuper la ligne de la rive droite de l'Erguéné, depuis Lulé-Bourgas jusqu'à Dimotika.

Ces troupes auraient été tout dernièrement renforcées de deux régiments d'infanterie et de quatre batteries de canons de campagne. L'effectif de ce corps serait donc actuellement d'environ 40,000 hommes.

Le Général Todleben est parti hier pour Baba-Eskisi, où il se rend pour visiter les troupes qui s'y trouvent, et afin de se rendre en même temps compte, dit-on, de la position topographique de certains points, aptes à être fortifiés en cas de besoin.

Ici on ne parle plus du relèvement des fortifications de la ville, mais on a commencé hier à construire des baraquements devant loger de 40,000 à 50,000 soldats.

Les nouvelles que nous recevons de l'intérieur sont de nature à faire appréhender de nouveaux faits déplorables pour ce pays.

Une grande quantité de paysans Chrétiens de notre province viennent de suspendre les travaux de leurs champs, et une émigration en masse s'organiserait pour le cas où les Russes se verraient obligés de quitter ce pays.

De nombreux émissaires Bulgares, venus des provinces de Philippopoli et de Sophia, parcourent la campagne et poussent les paysans dans cette voie, dont les funestes conséquences doivent fournir à la politique Russe un moyen de justification au sujet de la non-exécution du Traité de Berlin.

No. 329.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1373.)

Therapia, November 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of a letter I have received from Mr. Harrison relative to his mission of inquiry into the financial condition of the Ottoman Empire, and of my reply thereto.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 329.

Mr. Harrison to Sir A. H. Layard.

Hotel Royal, Pera, October 31, 1878.

Sir,

HAVING been instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, in a despatch dated the 17th ultimo, to proceed at once to Constantinople for the purpose of making an inquiry into the financial condition of the Ottoman Empire, I have the honour to inform your Excellency of my arrival on the 20th October, and to solicit the favour of your assistance in obtaining such information as may appear from time to time to be necessary for the accomplishment of the task entrusted to me. The questions specially indicated in Lord Salisbury's despatch as requiring attention are the following:—

1. The direct and indirect revenues of that province, the mode of collection, and any defects in it which may diminish the yield to the Porte or aggravate the burden imposed upon the cultivator or trader.

2. The expenditure to which the revenues of the Porte are applicable, distinguishing between the items incurred in each province and those defrayed by the Central Government.

3. The depreciation of the paper currency and the possible means of remedying what has become a serious and pressing difficulty for the Turkish Government.

4. To report any amendment which may appear practicable in the mode of collection of the revenues, or any provision by which a more efficient check may be imposed upon the expenditure, both local and central.

5. The cost to the Turkish Treasury of the service of the debt, distinguishing the floating and the bonded debt, and the means available, or likely to be available, for discharging it.

6. The general system of finance and account now in use, and the methods by which it may be improved.

The reference, as your Excellency will observe, covers the whole ground of the finance of the Turkish Empire, but it appears to me at present that it may be the most convenient course to break up the general field of inquiry into four divisions, and perhaps to make each the subject of a separate Report to Her Majesty's Secretary of State.

The first branch of the inquiry would be an examination of the present condition of the currency throughout the several provinces under the direct administration of the Porte, but including in some degree the Island of Cyprus; and the consideration of the general principles which ought to be kept in view in any measures which should be taken in order to place the currency on a sound footing.

The second branch is that relating to the public obligations of the Turkish Government and their bearing on the immediate financial position.

The third branch would be an examination of the general financial position at the present time, and would include the consideration of the just mode of dealing with the public creditor.

The fourth branch would be concerned with the details of the existing system of financial administration, and the means of improving this branch of the administration.

With respect to the first question, that of the present condition of the currency, I should be glad at once to address certain inquiries to Her Majesty's Consular officers in the different provinces of the Turkish Empire, and should be glad if your Excellency would inform me to what officers I could apply with advantage.

Before asking for information on any other branch of the general inquiry I should wish to have the opportunity of examining the materials already available locally or in the Consular Reports with which I have been furnished.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. HARRISON.

Inclosure 2 in No. 329.

Sir A. H. Layard to Mr. Harrison.

Therapia, November 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 31st ultimo, informing me of your arrival at Constantinople, instructed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs to make an inquiry into the financial condition of the Ottoman Empire. You are further good enough to inform me of the questions to which your attention is to be specially directed. I need scarcely say that it will give me much pleasure to be of any use to you in my power in prosecuting your inquiries, and in procuring for you such information as you may wish to obtain.

You state in your letter that you would be glad to address certain inquiries at once to Her Majesty's Consular officers in the different provinces of the Turkish Empire with respect to the present condition of the currency; and you ask me to inform you to what officers you could apply with advantage. I would suggest that your best plan would be to furnish me with the questions to which you require answers, adding such observations as you may think necessary, and I will forward them officially to such of Her Majesty's Consular officers as may be likely to give information on the subject, instructing them to send their answers to you through this Embassy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 330.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1374.)

Therapia, November 4, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 29th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter I have addressed to Major Gordon on the subject of the definition of the boundaries of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 330.

Sir A. H. Layard to Major Gordon, R.E.

Therapia, November 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE been informed by Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs that in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the frontiers of Eastern Roumelia which are to be defined by the Commission of which you are a member are to be determined, not upon any military consideration, but solely with reference to the administrative boundaries of the new province. It appears to me to be of great importance that you should keep this distinction in view.

I am, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 331.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1376.)

Therapia, November 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Calvert, reporting upon the number of Russian troops in the neighbourhood of Adrianople and elsewhere in European Turkey, and the arrangements that are apparently being made by the Russian authorities for a winter occupation of that city, if not for a winter campaign. The information obtained by Mr. Calvert, if trustworthy, may deserve the serious consideration of Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 331.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, November 4, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the movement of troops continues to be very great, although since those nominally garrisoned at Adrianople are encamped, as they arrive, at some distance around, the movement in the town itself is comparatively slight. The number of men now in garrison was given by a Russian Colonel yesterday at 60,000, nor does that figure appear excessive to judge by the number and extent of the camps.

It is understood that, for sanitary reasons, very few troops are to be quartered in the town. The men encamped in the neighbourhood are busily engaged in constructing huts, half underground, which are already needed, the weather having broken up and cold set in.

The Commander-in-chief was absent for several days during the past week on a tour of inspection to Kirk-Kilissé, Baba Eski, Lulé Bourgas, Ouzoun Koupri, and Demotica. He took with him to Baba Eski some native builders who, it is understood, are to be employed in constructing barracks at that place. He fixed the lines of outposts beyond Demotica (and presumably at other points likewise), and whilst directing that those lines were not to be passed either by the Russian or the Turkish troops, ordered that if any of the latter should attempt to do so the Russians were to fire on them "without hesitation." This last item of information I learn from a trustworthy person who had it from General Todleben himself.

It does not seem to be thought likely in military circles that in the event of a renewal of hostilities the Russian army will advance from its present lines. The belief that it will remain on the defensive appears to be borne out by the fact that, on retiring from Férrédjik, the Russians destroyed the military bridge which they had built there over the Maritza last summer, refusing to listen to the offers of purchase made by the inhabitants of Keshan. Although I have no information regarding the bridge near Bidigli, now occupied by the Turks, it has presumably been treated in the same way.

I hope to be able shortly to furnish a more or less detailed statement of the composition and local distribution of the various army corps, divisions, &c., on this side of the Balkans. In the meanwhile the following items of information may be found useful:—

Of the five army corps which, according to one account, will form the army of occupation south of the Balkans, four whole corps and, I believe, a part at least of the fifth, have now arrived. The whole of the 9th Corps, under General Stalibin, is now quartered in Eastern Roumelia; the 24th Regiment of infantry (of the 6th Division), recently attached to General Skobeleff's corps, having been transferred during the past week from Demotica to Staninaka.

That regiment has been replaced by the 4th Infantry Regiment of the 1st Division (corps not ascertained), which left for Demotica to-day, accompanied by two field batteries, thirty caissons, and twenty-four provision waggons.

The whole of the 13th and 14th Corps have arrived. The 13th forms part of the garrison of Adrianople. The 14th, or part of it, is quartered at Ouzoun Koupri.

According to another account (on the authority of a Russian Colonel) the Russian army of occupation during the winter will comprise, besides the five corps d'armée above-mentioned, five other corps, distributed as follows:—

One in the Balkan districts of Eastern Roumelia;

One at Sofia;

One at Tirnova, Gabrova, &c.;

One on the Danube (Widdin, Rustchuk, Silistria, &c.); and

One in Roumania.

A regiment of Cossacks and another of Hussars of the Imperial Guards, forming part of the cavalry brigade under General Arnauld (temporarily replaced by General

Baron Meyendorf) have arrived here from Sofia, where they had remained since the war. They are to be attached to the 4th Army Corps.

Nine thousand waggons have been engaged for military transport service during the winter.

A report has been current within the last few days, and it has been confirmed to one of my colleagues by a Russian Colonel, that active operations are about to be recommenced against the Rhodope insurgents. The rumour is further supported by the statement of a foreign provision merchant attached to a brigade consisting of 4,000 or 5,000 men, who are, as he says, to be employed on that service. This person was unable to say what point it is intended to attack. It is generally believed that the hill districts above either Ortakioï or Demotica are in view. In all probability the latter supposition is the correct one, as a concentration of troops at Demotica is spoken of independently of this matter; and there seems reason to fear that the destruction of Demirdjilar and the massacre of its inhabitants, reported in my despatch of the 2nd instant, may prove to be but the prelude to a series of operations of the same kind, in repetition of the treatment applied last summer to the districts above Hasskioï.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 332.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1377.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 6, 1878.*

IN my confidential despatch to your Lordship No. 1,329 of the 26th ultimo, I alluded to the proposal alleged to have been made by Count Schouvaloff to the Austrian Cabinet with regard to the election of "Pietro Bisovitch," the uncle of the Prince of Montenegro, as Prince of Bulgaria. The name of this gentleman should be Boso Petrovitch, and he is the cousin, and not the uncle, of Prince Nikita.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 333.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1379.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 6, 1878.*

AS the English and foreign press has published various reports with reference to an assault upon Vice-Consul Brophy by Russian officers at Bourgas, your Lordship may desire to have some particulars on the subject. I therefore inclose the account of the affair, which Mr. Brophy has privately communicated to General Sir C. Dickson. As he has not written to me officially with regard to it, I presume that he has obtained the apology which he demanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 333.

Vice-Consul Brophy to General Sir C. Dickson.

(Extract.)

ON the night of the 16th instant, about 11 o'clock, I turned in, merely to ask a question, to the shop of a Maltese here, stayed about a minute, and as I was on the threshold going out received two or three heavy blows in the face from some persons I could only indistinctly see, as I was in the light and they in almost darkness. I instinctively hit out (though I only felt one blow tell on flesh), was knocked down, and two persons tried to hit me on the face as I lay. I put my arms across my face, and then received a kick or two about the legs. People ran up, and the ruffians ran away.

I was nearly if not quite stunned, but on being picked up I was told that my assailants were officers, who had already broken the heads of the Italian and the Maltese in the shop.

My brother went that night to the Chef de Police, but could not find him, and so went again in the morning, when the Chef de Police said a good deal about officers who were the disgrace of their army, and promised that I should have every satisfaction. As, however, he did nothing for twenty-four hours I wrote a letter to him, which had the effect of bringing him to my room early the next morning.

My assailants were officers of the 24th Brigade Artillery, and had left before daylight for Adrianople.

The Chef de Police, a Prince Njeswicki, begged me to look over the affair, as the officers were young and tipsy.

I replied that my brother had told him I should be contented with a full apology; that unless I got that I should send a detailed Report to the Embassy, and write to General Todleben as Commander-in-chief; that knowing the severity of the Russian discipline, I thought it very likely that the culprits would be degraded; but that, as a favour to him, if he would give me his parole d'honneur that I should have a full and satisfactory written apology, the signatures apposed being properly legalized, I would wait ten days.

Prince Njeswicki immediately gave me his word to the desired effect, and I said that if I received what I demanded I would make no official use of the paper.

And so the matter rests for the present. I ought to say that I had never, to my knowledge, seen or spoken with my assailants, and that I believe they took me for some one belonging to the shop.

Of course, I am bound by my promise to wait; but if I don't get what Prince Njeswicki promises I shall write first to General Todleben, so as to give as little trouble as possible to the Embassy; if that fails, of course I must apply to Her Majesty's Embassy. If the gentlemen had not left Bourgas the matter would have been settled within twenty-four hours; but I think I was right in offering the option of a written apology, as I am convinced that the assault was not intended for me as English Consul, or, indeed, for me personally in any way.

No. 334.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1383.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 8, 1878.*

COLONEL HOME, at my request, was good enough to authorize Captain Murray to visit Köstendil and the neighbouring districts of Macedonia, in order to obtain information as to the insurrectionary movement alleged to be taking place in that province. I have now the honour of inclosing copy of a very interesting and important Report from that officer, who has just returned to Constantinople. It fully confirms the information that has already been received by me on this subject, which I have transmitted to your Lordship. There can scarcely now be any doubt, I conceive, that the Russians are secretly encouraging the rising in Macedonia, and are furnishing the means to the Bulgarians to carry it out.

It is somewhat edifying to find that the Russians are introducing into the provinces which they now occupy, and allege to have freed and civilized, most, if not all, of the abuses and crimes which they attributed to Turkish rule as pretexts for the late inhuman war—maladministration of justice, corruption amongst the public functionnries, oppression and cruelty committed upon the subject race, religious persecution, sale of tithes, &c.—and we now learn that there are even Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks, who appear to indulge in all the horrors committed by their Mussulman prototypes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 334.

Captain Murray to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Royal Hotel, Pera, November 6, 1878.

Sir,

IN accordance with instructions received from Colonel Home, R.E., I proceeded on the 21st October to Philippopolis, to carry out your Excellency's wishes in reporting upon the movements of Russians and Bulgarians on the Macedonian frontier.

I placed myself in communication with Mr. Calvert, the Vice-Consul, who gave me all the information in his power; but I found that to obtain really reliable information it was necessary that I should proceed to the frontier.

I therefore telegraphed through Mr. Calvert requesting authority to go to the frontier; but communication being difficult, and not having received a reply on the 25th October, I considered it advisable to proceed.

I returned this evening to Constantinople, and have the honour to submit to your Excellency the results of my inquiries.

The principal facts contained therein I have either personally verified or can vouch for as being absolutely correct.

I regret that the journey should have taken so much time. I travelled on every successive day and some nights since leaving Philippopolis, but the difficulties of travelling in that country are great, and I was obliged to make my inquiries with caution, as I was everywhere regarded with suspicion.

1. *The Russians.*—The Russian army in Turkey is constantly moving, and it is difficult to ascertain the exact numbers; but a corps d'armée holds the whole of the country to the eastward, by the line Kirk-Kilissé, Ludé-Bourgas, towards Rodosto.

This is important, as it compels the Turks, in case of serious disturbances in Macedonia, to send their troops by sea to Salonica.

A corps holds the line Sofia, Radomir, Köstendil, Bobosevo, Dschuma, Samacow, Tatar-Bazardjik, Philippopolis.

Adrianople appears to be the centre of these military districts, and I believe it is proposed to have two corps d'armée at that place, the whole under command of General Todleben.

On the frontier, at Köstendil and Samacow, the Russians are very strong, and at each of these places they are building ten large wooden huts, to hold 250 men each.

I have the numbers and details of these corps and detached regiments should your Excellency desire them.

2. *Russian Movements.*—The Russians do not appear in any instance to have passed the Macedonian frontier with hostile intention, either with or without Bulgarian troops, nor do I think it is intended that they should do so. They have, however, passed into the neutral ground in some instances.

I understand that at the frontier between Köstendil and Palanka there should be a neutral space of 2½ kilom.

The principal outposts of the Russians and Turks are at about this distance from one another at that point; the Turks on the top of the Deve Bagh mountain, the Russians some little distance towards Köstendil in the plain below.

The Russians, however, have pushed forward a few men into what appears to be neutral ground; these are at the foot of the Deve Bagh, and within three-quarters of a mile of the Turkish post.

There is also an armed Bulgarian stationed in a shelter on the side of the mountain at a little over a quarter of a mile from the Turkish post.

3. *The Bulgarian Troops.*—All Bulgarians are more or less armed, but there are now two distinct kinds who are sufficiently well armed for European warfare:—

1. The regular army, which is being rapidly raised, and is regularly drilled by Russian officers and non-commissioned officers at Philippopolis, Köstendil, and Sofia.

They are young and strong men, drill well, and are well armed with Russian rifles.

None of these troops have as yet passed the frontier of Macedonia.

2. The Volunteers, or Bashi-Bazouks. These should be again subdivided into—

(*a*). Those who are fed, paid, and armed, and are constantly available for service.

These buy their own uniform generally, so there is a great variety; but the favourite dress is a blue coat with red shoulder-straps; red pantaloons and long boots;

black Bulgarian cap, with red top and white cross, and a brass cross in front; a shoulder-belt with cartridges, and a sword.

I have spoken to many Servians among these, some carrying the Servian war medal.

(*b*.) Those who are armed only, but not paid or fed, until they are required, and until they proceed on service. Until that time they remain at their shops and occupations.

These are dressed in the ordinary peasant's dress, but all have the cap and cross.

All are well armed with Martini or Snider rifles. Indeed, every peasant about that frontier may be said to possess at least one good rifle.

As there is no large game in that country, there can be only one object for which a rifle is required.

The methods of raising Volunteers are as follows:—

1. A man who wishes to become a Volunteer goes to his priest, who takes him to the police, where his name and residence are noted. He then becomes a Volunteer, and has a permit to carry a rifle.

2. A sub-Committee, deputed by a higher Committee in Sofia, travels about the country offering pay at the rate of 300 piastres per month to all who will volunteer and march at once against the Turks.

3. A crier goes round the villages on market days, crying that every man who owns a rifle without a permit will be taken before the police and fined.

Therefore, many men become Volunteers in order to keep their rifle.

Bulgarian Movements.—On arriving at Köstendil, I ascertained that a fight between Turks and Bulgarians had taken place at the frontier near that town, on the Deve Bagh mountain in the Caza of Kamanitchka.

As I could not obtain reliable information of the details at Köstendil, I passed through the Russian outposts and visited the Turks at Palanka.

The Governor of the country, Hussein Effendi, the Commandant of the troops, Mehemet Bey, and the officer commanding the Deve Bagh outpost, gave me all information.

The force at Palanka is:—

3,200 men and two small cannon; 2,400 men are on the mountains, 800 in the village of Palanka.

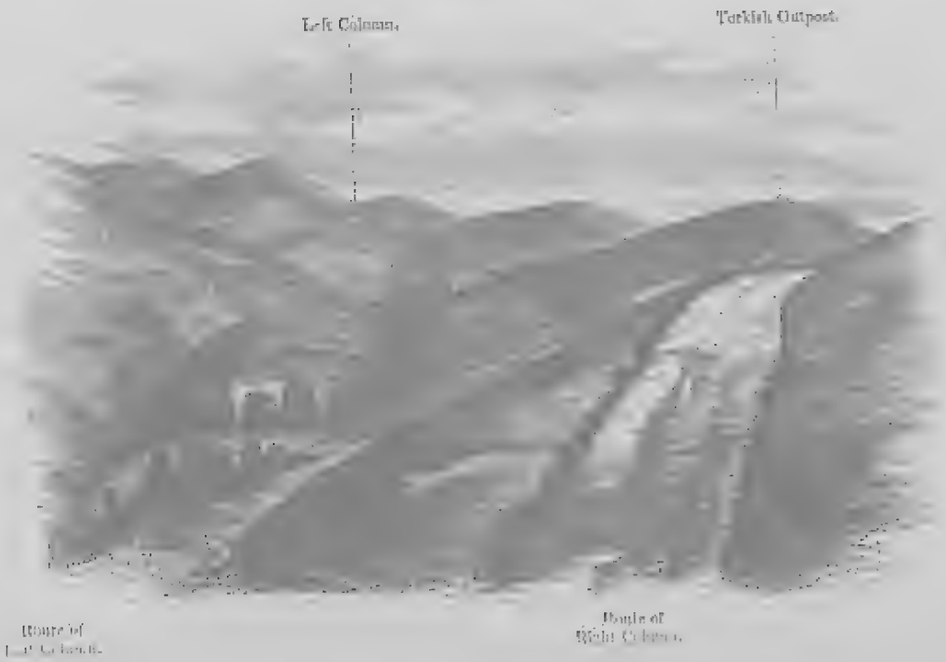
The posts are placed in the following manner:—

The strength of the Deve Bagh post was about 60 men, with 100 men at about three-quarters of a mile down the hill towards Palanka.

Two days before the attack, two Russian officers visited the Turkish outpost on Deve Bagh, and stayed some time with the officers.

The Turks appear to regard this as a sinister sign.

The second night after this, at one hour after midnight, the 14th October, about 500 Bulgarians came by two routes, the right column by the main road, the left column by a mountain path,

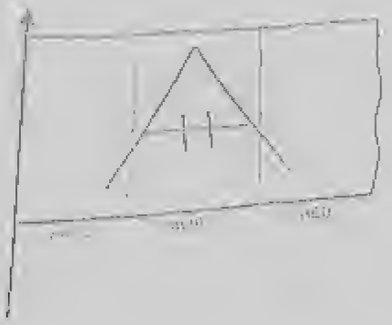


and tried to surround the guard-house.

The sentry challenged, and was shot through the head.

The Bulgarians charged, firing rapidly, with the Turkish cry of "Yoolah," but the Turkish officer gave the order to his men to charge, and when the Bulgarians heard the Turkish war-cry they retreated.

Two Bulgarians were left dead. One of these carried a flag, which was afterwards sent to Uskup, and is of the pattern—



The A II, in Russian, I understand, means Alexander Nicolaëvitch.

I have in my possession the cap and passport of the other individual who was left on the ground. The passport is in Russian. It was taken out at Plevna, *visé* at Sofia for Köstendil, so the bearer must have passed the Russian lines at the frontier without a *visé*, which I was unable to do.

I have also what appears to be a Memorial from the inhabitants of Palanka, which was given to me on leaving that place.

Both these documents shall be forwarded to your Excellency, if desired.

After the fight, the Russians asked for the dead Bulgarians, but the Turkish Commandant refused to deliver them. He sent for a Bulgarian priest, and had them buried.

The Russian sentries told the Turkish sentries that their (Russian) ambulances took away the rest of the Bulgarian dead and wounded.

I heard that there were twenty-four wounded in hospital at Köstendil.

In the Caza of Kosjak, on the morning of the 21st October, 500 Serbs and Bulgarians attacked the Turkish frontier posts near Kumanova. One Turk was killed, but the insurgents were driven back. Nine arabas were with them to take away the dead and wounded.

In this caza there is another force of Turks, distinct from the Palanka force.

I did not proceed to this frontier, not having your Excellency's instructions to do so.

The Russians from Köstendil pass freely to the Turkish side if they wish.

The Bulgarians come armed into the neutral ground and take sheep, &c., from the villagers.

The Turks ask the Russians why they allow this, and that the Bulgarians should attack them.

The Russians reply, "We do not see them. We have nothing to do with it."

On the other hand, if the Turks go into the neutral ground the Bulgarians fire at them, and the Russians always hold their side of the frontier line, and would prevent any counter movement on the part of the Turks.

The Commandant at Palanka knows there are many insurgents all round his lines of outposts, and has asked for leave to take them, but as yet had received no answer.

He says he could take them all without losing a man. This I doubt; he does not know to what proportions this movement has grown.

On returning to Köstendil I heard that a column of Bulgarians had marched to Dschuma, and another to Malisch, to attack the frontier from two points. Also that a fight had taken place at the frontier near Dschuma.

I noticed that most of the Volunteers at Köstendil, particularly a company of 300, commanded by a priest, had marched. This priest I hear has been in prison at Salonica for many years, having been placed there by a Court of Bishops. He has lately been released, and is now a prominent Commander of Volunteers.

I went at once to Dschuma. This village was full of armed men, evidently without occupation.

I had to be extremely careful here, but I ascertained that a fight had taken place at the frontier between the villages of Krupnik and Krachna on the night of the 25th October; that the Bashi-Bazouks had surrounded the Turks, and taken prisoners 1 officer and 130 men.

The officer was at Dschuma a prisoner, but allowed to keep his sword. He gave me certain details of the action.

The tactics of the Bulgarians appear to have been the same as at Palanka in surrounding the Turkish outpost.

The Turkish officer in command asked them, "Why do you fire at us? We have no orders to fire at you."

The officer commanding the Bulgarians could not speak Turkish or Bulgarian, but had a Dragoman with him as interpreter. I have heard that he is a Russian, named Major Alexandroff, who served in the Servian army.

The rest of the Turkish prisoners (130) are at Srbin, on the Bulgarian-Macedonian frontier, under a guard.

The remainder of the Bulgarians had marched to about eight hours' distance beyond Melnik, perhaps to Demir-Hissar or Siros, in Macedonia.

There were about 2,000 of them, and they were taking the men of the country with them, either willingly or by force.

Many natives of Thessaly also join the movement.

The people of the Raslug district, near the frontier, were flying to Banjska, because they were afraid of a Turkish counter movement.

The other column of Bulgarians, which was reported to have gone to Malisch, I was unable to trace.

The Russian commandant of Dschuma had gone to Sofia two days before I arrived, for the express purpose, as I heard, of inquiring what is to be done with the Turkish prisoners at Srbin.

A Bulgarian was left as Governor, and I found the interview with him not altogether satisfactory.

I wished to push on beyond the frontier, but could not obtain an escort. Both he and the officer in command of the troops acknowledged that Bashi-Bazouks had gone beyond the frontier.

I considered that your Excellency might think it unadvisable that I should be embroiled in any way with the insurgents, so I did not insist upon proceeding.

On November 2nd, the day that I left Dschuma, men were crowding in from all parts, on horseback and on foot, in uniform and plain dress, mostly armed with good rifles.

I heard that fifty or more arrive every day, and do not stay, but push on into Macedonia through the gap in the frontier made by the advance guard.

There are, perhaps, 1,000 men in Dschuma, who await arms, &c., sixty carriages of rifles and supplies were expected to arrive immediately from Sofia; but, as a general rule, the insurgents come well-armed, and the khan, in which I stayed at Dschuma, had the appearance of a barrack, from the quantities of rifles, cartridge belts, &c., in all the rooms.

From the hill above the village of Kocarnovo, in returning, I heard volleys fired at intervals in the direction of the frontier. This was, probably, an attack upon one of the other Turkish posts not yet taken.

At Samacow, on my return journey, numbers of Bashi-Bazouks were staying the night on their way to Dschuma—at least sixty well-armed in the khan at which I stayed.

5. *Supplies.*—These are provided by certain Committees. I have heard much of these Committees, but am unable to give really reliable information upon this point.

From what I have been able to gather I believe the chief Committee is at Sofia, with sub-Committees in the principal towns of Bulgaria, and some in Roumelia.

Large collections are made by priests to further the movement.

The Bishop of Ochrida stated in Samacow the other day that he had collected some million piastres to free Macedonia from the Turks. This I heard upon the best authority in Samacow.

The people in and about Köstendil pay 100 pieces of gold per month as contribution to the cause from that town and environs: 25,000 rifles, Martini and Snider, were taken from the Turks during the war.

They have been stored at Sofia, and are now distributed to the Volunteers. They are of the best and latest make. A good Martini can anywhere be bought for a Turkish lira.

Martini, Snider, and other descriptions of cartridges, in the best brass cases, are sold in every shop in all the villages of the frontier, at sixty paras for ten.

They are supplied by the Sofia Committee at far below the cost price.

In Dschuma, at the present time, cartridges are given away, and I saw shops with nothing else but thousands of cartridges of all descriptions, which were given to all who required them.

Stores of arms and cartridges are also sent to the monasteries. I met some Bashi-Bazouks in the khan at Kadi-Cupri, who were taking boxes of cartridges and rifles on pack animals from Köstendil to the monastery of St. George's, in the mountains near Dubritza.

The two descriptions of Volunteers live, as before described, until called out for service.

I hear that at present they live on the country of Macedonia.

6. *Chiefs of the Movement.*—The chiefs, beside the secret Committees, whose names I have been able to ascertain, are—the Archbishop of Uskup, the Bishop of Ochrida.

In immediate command of bands are—Major Alexandroff, the priest of Salonica, Constantine, a dwarf, two Voïvodas, Elinh: all these are Macedonian brigands.

7. *General Intention.*—This is to free Macedonia from the Turks.

The Bulgarians are at present the principal movers in this, but it is expected that the Macedonians will join now.

The peasants do not understand the reason of it. Some say it is in order to join Macedonia to Bulgaria, and raise up a strong Bulgarian nation, to resist better the encroachments of Russia.

The better educated see that it is the wish of Russia to carry out the San Stefano Treaty, but all seem ready to march against the Turks.

The Macedonians already begin to say they are free, thinking that because a Turkish post has been forced and some prisoners made, that all is over.

The means by which the Bulgarians intend to attain their object are by marching upon the line of the Kara-Su, and holding it as long as possible, trusting to the Macedonians to hold Uskup, Veless, and Monastir.

Remarks.—I have no doubt whatever, from what I have seen, that the Russians allow and encourage in every way this movement.

The Russian troops and Bashi-Bazouks (Volunteers) march together on the road towards the frontier.

They call one another Bratisca (brothers) in the cafés, and are on the most friendly terms.

It is impossible for the Volunteers to pass the frontier without the Russians seeing them, as there are only two roads by which the frontier can be crossed, viz:—

1. That of Köstendil-Palanka.
2. The Krupnik-Krschna road.

The Russians have strong outposts on both these roads, and between them the mountains are impassable.

As it is impossible for me to travel without seeing this movement, I have not the slightest hesitation in stating that if the Russian Commandants of Köstendil and Dschuma have done their duty, the Russian Government is, and has been, fully acquainted with all that has taken place on the Macedonian frontier.

The movement has already gone very far, and increases with every hour.

If the Russian Major were taken, I believe the movement would gradually melt away, as the Bulgarians are too ignorant and simple to do anything unless well led, but unless the most energetic measures are taken, I feel sure that much more serious events will very shortly happen in Macedonia.

I beg to submit to your Excellency, that considering the difficulty of gaining information concerning Macedonia on the Bulgarian side of the frontier, it might be advisable that an officer should proceed by way of Salonica into Macedonia, to ascertain wfora h the movement has spread among the people of that country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. MURRAY.

No. 335.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1384.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 8, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 907 of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to inclose copies of three telegrams I have received from Philippopolis from Mr. Vice-Consul Calvert respecting the insurrectionary movement in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 335.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November* 1, 1878.

IT is reported to me, confidentially, that a new Committee, composed of influential Bulgarians, has been formed here to arouse agitation amongst the Bulgarian peasantry of that province, who have not hitherto shown themselves very ready to obey the . . . . of the agitators. It is in contemplation to drill under Russians all the Bulgarian able-bodied male population between the ages of 18 and 40, and one of the objects of the new Committee is to induce the peasants to take part voluntarily in the drill. I learn that a similar measure has already been carried out in the districts of [?] Gabrova . . . Tirnova, and other parts of Bulgaria.

Inclosure 2 in No. 335.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November* 1, 1878.

MY Greek colleague has received the following information from Samacow, under date of the 29th October:—

Bulgarian insurgents attacked Turkish troops in overwhelming numbers at Djuma in Macedonia and defeated them, taking 134 prisoners. Near Tigri Palanka Bulgarians also attacked Turks, but were defeated and driven back. Subscriptions are actively collected at Samacow for Macedonian insurrection: 6,000 Russian troops are being concentrated at Samacow.

The above-mentioned engagements are probably the same as those mentioned in my telegram of the 25th October.

Inclosure 3 in No. 335.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, November 1, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

I AM informed, by person just arrived from Köstendil, that immediately after the engagement at Egri Palanka the Russians saw fit to send officer to the Turkish Commander, urging him to push forward after repelling the Bulgarian incursion, to assure himself that no change had taken place, and that the Bulgarians who had attacked him were a set of drunken marauders, who had acted without the knowledge of the Russians. My informant added that the Bulgarians lost about 700 men in this fight and the Turks only two or three.

No. 336.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 1386.)

Therapia, November 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches reporting upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Adrianople, Prevesa, Varna, and Gallipoli.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 336.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Adrianople, November 1, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that I have been confidentially informed that a large Russian force is either now marching, or about to march immediately, towards the Austrian frontier, from Russia proper. The source from which I derive this statement, and the manner in which it was arrived at by my informant, place its authenticity beyond all doubt. The movement is understood to be no mere demonstration, but one of the gravest import. The point threatened was not ascertained by my informant, but is presumably Galicia.

Russian military men are not unjustifiably proud of the winter's campaign, by which they upset the provisions of the highest authorities in military matters, and brought the late war to a successful close. The result of this bold innovation on the ordinary maxims of war has evidently engendered the belief among Russian military men that the physical endurance which brought it to a victorious issue is a quality in which their army stands alone. It does not seem improbable, therefore, that, should war be decided upon, Russian strategy may see fit to act on the experience whereby they have, as they believe, discovered the secret of having their enemies at a disadvantage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 336.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, November 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the exodus of Bulgarians from the districts lying between this and Dédéagatch continues to prevail, though in a more intermittent form than at first.

I learn from a respectable Greek merchant who left for Dédéagatch by the same train as Mazhar Pasha, the following particulars regarding his Excellency's mission.

Mazhar Pasha did not, so far as the Bulgarians are concerned, succeed in stopping the exodus from that part of the country. The Greek peasants, however, few in number as compared with the Bulgarians, who were preparing to follow those that had already left, were induced, by the joint persuasions of his Excellency and the Greek notables, to stay; whilst the Greek fugitives who had not yet gone on from here returned to their homes.

The Pasha was insulted in the grossest terms by the Bulgarians at Sofoulu, and as they, moreover, threatened to shoot him if he left the train, his Excellency did not consider it prudent to get out at that station. The Russians there did nothing to stop these outrageous proceedings, much less did they in any way assist him in the object of his mission. The Bulgarians would not allow any delegates from their own community to accompany the Pasha to Dédéagatch, with the view of devising measures in common to induce the fugitives from thence to return.

The above informant adds that the Bulgarians in those parts are greatly irritated against their Greek neighbours for leaning to the Turkish side in this matter, and threaten the latter, saying, "If war breaks out you shall see how you will fare. We will treat you worse than we treat the Turks and the Jews."

I learn from the same informant that, on passing by Sofoulu on his return to Adrianople, Thursday evening, the 24th ultimo, he was informed that the Turkish village of Demirdjiler, three hours from Sofoulu, had been destroyed, and its inhabitants massacred that morning, under the following circumstances. Two days previously the Turks at Demirdjiler had resisted a detachment of eighteen Cossacks which attempted to enter their village, firing upon them, without effect, as my informant was told by the Christians of Sofoulu, but, according to the statement of the Russian authorities here, killing one Cossack and wounding another. A larger force being afterwards dispatched, along with many Bulgarian and Greek volunteers, these were, it is said, received in like manner, and the officer in command was "nearly" hit by a bullet. Thereupon, by order of the officer, the village was carried, sacked, and destroyed, whilst such of its inhabitants as had not effected their escape, men, women, and children, were massacred.

The Russian military authorities here do not deny the fact of this massacre and destruction, only maintaining that they were justified by the resistance offered, and by the fact that the Turks of Demirdjiler had been plundering a Bulgarian village in the neighbourhood.

The tragedy at Demirdjiler fully accounts for the attack made (obviously by way of retaliation) on the Bulgarian village of Demir-Oren (which is two hours from the former place) on the following day, as reported in my despatch of the 26th ultimo. The statement regarding the latter occurrence, given in that despatch on the authority of a Bulgarian fugitive, proves to have contained the usual exaggeration. The avenging band came from the Mussulman village of Kayadjik (mis-spelt "Bayadjik" in Kiepert's map), on the confines of the territory of the Rhodope insurgents. They killed six inhabitants of the Bulgarian village—four men and two women—plundered the church, and burnt down the village. The Russian detachment having come to the rescue, the Turks retreated to the hills without further casualties on either side.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 336.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Adrianople, November 2, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch of to-day's date, I have the honour to inform your Excellency that, having been assured yesterday that Mazhar Pasha, during his journey by rail to Dédéagatch, had addressed the Bulgarians at the various stopping-places in the most violent and offensive language, calling them "Ghiaours," &c., I was at the pains of inquiring into the source of statements so extraordinary.

Thanks to the singular indiscretion which characterizes Russian civil servants and military men alike, at least at Adrianople, I had no great difficulty in learning that the information emanated from M. Onzoumoff, a Russo-Bulgarian official, who,

my informant allowed me to know, had been secretly charged by the Russian authorities to watch and report upon the Pasha's proceedings.

This M. Ozounoff is one of a class of men whom, it seems, Russian policy in this country especially delights to honour. He was lately Russian Sub-Governor of Kirk-Kilissa. He is also notoriously the assassin of a Greek notable of Hasskoï, named Hadji Christo. Having fled the country he only ceased to be an outlaw under the shadow of the Russian régime. The crime was committed six or seven years ago. I am informed that Mr. Blunt, who was then Vice-Consul at Adrianople, took a great interest in the matter, and it was probably reported by him to Her Majesty's Embassy; but I am unable to verify this point, as I cannot find among the archives of this Consulate Mr. Blunt's correspondence during the period in question.

I have thought it advisable to mention, confidentially, the above circumstances, in order that, should M. Ouzounoff's story regarding Mazhar Pasha be cited, your Excellency may know the value of the testimony on which it reposes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 336.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, October 26, 1878.

Sir,

IT is with regret that I have the honour to announce to your Excellency the death, on the 23rd instant, of Hassan Pasha, the Mutessarif of Prevesa. The funeral of the deceased took place on the following morning, and nearly all the public functionaries, civil and military, took part in it, as well as the entire Consular Corps.

The Christian inhabitants of Prevesa, by whom he was justly beloved for his amiable and kind manner, showed, on the day of his funeral, every mark of sympathy and respect. All the shops kept by Christians were closed, and it is no exaggeration to say that nearly the whole Christian population accompanied the body of the late Hassan Pasha to its last resting-place.

Pending the arrival of the new Mutessarif, Timour Pasha, Liva Ali Pasha takes charge of the post thus vacated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 336.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, October 29, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that within the last few days there has been a new outbreak of atrocities by Bulgars on the Mahommedan inhabitants of the Balkan district near to Cape Emineh.

I have not yet had time to gather all the particulars, but I send this by the hand of Hassan Agha, of Aryandjih, who has been known to me for three years as a most excellent and trustworthy man, and one who, during the time that the Circassians were committing acts of brigandage in other places, was the means of keeping all that district in order.

Hassan Agha is the bearer of a petition from the district in question to the Sublime Porte, and he will give your Excellency the particulars of what has happened as far as he can.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 6 in No. 336.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul R. Reade.

Varna, November 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to hand you a copy of a communication which I received to-day, and to request your instructions how I am to act.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 336.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Sir A. H. Layard.

Varna, November 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Excellency copy of a despatch addressed by me to Mr. Consul Reade at Rustchuk to-day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. H. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 8 in No. 336.

M. Baumgarten to Vice-Consul Dalziel.

M. le Vice-Consul,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que, vu le rétablissement définitif des relations entre le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et la Porte Ottomane, qui met fin à la période transitoire, son Excellence M. le Commissaire Impérial vient de m'ordonner d'entrer en relations officielles avec vous.

En portant ce qui précède à votre connaissance, j'aime à croire, M. le Vice-Consul, que ces relations ne feront que contribuer au succès de la tâche qui nous est dévolue.

J'ai en même temps l'honneur de vous prier de vouloir bien me communiquer une liste des sujets du Gouvernement que vous représentez, domiciliés dans le rayon de votre juridiction Consulaire.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) P. BAUMGARTEN.

Inclosure 9 in No. 336.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 20 Octobre, 1878.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que Redjeb Pacha, qui avait dernièrement remplacé Osman Pacha dans le commandement du camp de Boulaïr, vient d'être appelé à Constantinople. Son remplaçant, Hadji Rechid Pacha, est arrivé hier de Constantinople.

Grâce aux efforts du Gouverneur, Rechid Pacha, combinés avec l'énergie et le zèle des divers officiers qui commandent les détachements militaires dans les principaux villages, la tranquillité continue à régner dans notre province.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

No. 337.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 1380.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 8, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the Firman confirming the modifications of the Organic Law of Crete, as agreed to between the Sultan's Commissioner

and the Delegates of the National Assembly. I have this moment received this document from the Porte, and have not had time to make a copy of it.

Your Lordship will perceive that the expression "Musulmans et Chrétiens" is constantly used. I have suggested that it should be "Musulmans, Chrétiens, et autres," in order that there may be no question as to the exclusion of Jews or others. To this addition I have every reason to believe there will be no objection on the part of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 337.

Firman.

(Traduction.)

APRÈS les titres d'usage,

A mon Vizir Costaki Pacha, Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Crète, décoré de l'Ordre Impérial du Médjidié de première classe.

Ghazi Ahmed Moukhtar Pacha, Muchir de mon Armée Impériale, Chef d'Etat-Major, décoré des Ordres Impériaux de l'Osmanié en brillants et du Médjidié de première classe, et Salim Effendi, Haut Fonctionnaire de mon Empire, Conseiller de la Cour de Cassation, ont été précédemment envoyés en Crète en vertu de mon Traité Impérial, afin d'y examiner les demandes concernant les modifications à apporter au Règlement Organique octroyé par le Firman du 25 Rémézan 1284. A l'arrivée de ces dignitaires en Crète, les vœux de la population ont été examinés dans un Conseil tenu *ad hoc* et composé des personnes dont la présence était nécessaire. Les modifications à introduire au Règlement, arrêtées en seize Articles et quelques dispositions particulières, ont été consignées dans un Acte qui fut présenté à ma Sublime Porte, et dont la teneur suit :—

Article 1. Le Règlement Spécial de l'Ile de Crète est en vigueur comme par le passé. Certaines dispositions seulement de ce Règlement seront modifiées et complétées comme ci-dessous.

La Constitution n'annulera pas les dispositions de ce Règlement.

Art. 2. Le Gouverneur-Général est nommé, conformément au Règlement Organique de Crète. La durée de ses fonctions sera de cinq ans.

Art. 3. L'Assemblée Générale sera composée de quatre-vingt membres, dont quarante-neuf Chrétiens et trente et un Musulmans.

Art. 4. La Session annuelle de l'Assemblée Générale sera comme par le passé, de quarante jours. Toutefois, si l'Assemblée ne peut terminer durant ce laps de temps les travaux de cette année-ci, la première Session pourra être prorogée de vingt jours au plus.

Les séances sont publiques.

Afin de combler les lacunes qui existent dans la législation Ottomane en vigueur, l'Assemblée Générale aura le droit d'élaborer immédiatement un Code de Procédure Civile et Criminelle, et un Règlement Communal, qui font encore défaut, et de les soumettre à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte, qui les sanctionnera s'ils ne portent pas atteinte aux droits du Gouvernement Impérial et s'ils ne sont pas contraires aux principes qui régissent les lois et Règlements Ottomans.

Si, dans la suite, il y avait à faire des modifications de nature à suppléer à l'insuffisance des Règlements en vigueur et réclamés par les besoins d'un intérêt purement local, l'Assemblée Générale aura le droit de soumettre à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte les modifications qu'elle aura arrêtées à la majorité des deux tiers des voix.

Le vote à la majorité de deux tiers ne sera applicable que dans le cas prévu par le paragraphe précédent.

Art. 5. Le nombre des Caïmacams Chrétiens dépassera celui des Caïmacams Musulmans suivant les exigences des localités.

Art. 6. La formation des Conseils d'Administration aura lieu comme par le passé. Toutefois, à l'avenir, aucun employé du Gouvernement n'en fera partie, à l'exception du Gouverneur-Général, des Gouverneurs, et des Caïmacams, qui les président de droit.

Art. 7. Le pouvoir judiciaire sera distinct et indépendant du pouvoir exécutif.

La composition des Tribunaux aura lieu comme par le passé. Néanmoins, l'Assemblée pourra soumettre à l'approbation de la Sublime Porte un projet de

réorganisation qui, tout en étant plus économique, assurerait une meilleure distribution de la justice.

Art. 8. Le Gouverneur-Général aura dorénavant un Conseiller qui sera Chrétien, si le Vali est Musulman, et Musulman si le Vali est Chrétien.

Art. 9. La correspondance général du vilayet, ainsi que les procès-verbaux et mazbatas des Tribunaux et Conseils se feront en deux langues. Mais, comme les habitants Musulmans et Chrétiens de l'Ile parlent en général le Grec, les délibérations de l'Assemblée Générale et des Tribunaux auront lieu dans cette langue.

Art. 10. Tous les employés autres que le Vali seront également nommés conformément aux lois et Règlements en vigueur. Toutefois les indigènes ayant les qualités requises auront la préférence.

Art. 11. Dans le cas où l'Assemblée Générale aurait à établir pour la perception des dîmes un mode nouveau de nature à sauvegarder d'une manière plus complète les intérêts du fisc et en même temps ceux de la population, elle devra le soumettre à la sanction du Gouvernement.

Art. 12. Le Gouvernement Impérial acceptera, conformément aux Règlements, les indigènes, Musulmans ou Chrétiens, qui s'offriront pour la formation de la gendarmerie de l'île, et n'aura recours à d'autres habitants de l'Empire que dans le cas de l'insuffisance des candidats indigènes. Le Chef de la Gendarmerie (Alaï Béyi) sera désigné par la Sublime Porte. Quant aux autres officiers, ils seront choisis par l'autorité locale parmi les Musulmans et les Chrétiens, conformément à la loi, et leur nomination sera soumise à la sanction du Gouvernement Impérial.

Une caisse de retraite sera établie pour les officiers et soldats de la gendarmerie, et un Règlement spécial sera élaboré à ce sujet.

Art. 13. Il y aura économie dans les dépenses. Ne seront pas portés au budget de l'île :—

Les frais de l'armée régulière, les droits de Douane, les taxes sur le sel et le tabac, ainsi que les recettes et dépenses des terrains vacoufs qui, inscrites au budget du vilayet, sont aujourd'hui administrées par l'autorité locale, et qui seront dorénavant gérées séparément.

Après prélèvement sur le restant des revenus, des frais de l'administration locale, l'excédant sera partagé à moitié entre le Trésor Impérial et les travaux d'utilité publique qui seront arrêtés par l'Assemblée Générale dans l'ordre suivant :—

1. Maisons de détention.
2. Ecoles.
3. Hôpitaux.
4. Ports et routes.

L'Assemblée aura le droit d'examiner si les recettes et les dépenses ont été disposées selon la prescription budgétaire de l'année. Dans le cas où ces revenus ne couvriraient pas les dépenses, et qu'après avoir usé de toutes les mesures administratives on n'aurait pas encore réussi à augmenter les recettes et à payer les appointements, le Gouvernement Impérial donnera à l'administration de l'île et jusqu'à concurrence de la moitié des revenus de la Douane de l'exercice courant, une somme d'argent qui servirait à combler le déficit des appointements.

Art. 14. Le papier-monnaie n'aura pas cours dans l'île. Les appointements des employés seront payés en métallique.

Art. 15. Il sera permis aux habitants de l'île de fonder des sociétés littéraires, des imprimeries, et de publier des journaux conformément aux lois et règlements de l'Empire.

Art. 16. Si des Ordonnances Ministérielles sont transmises contrairement à l'indépendance des Tribunaux, aux lois en vigueur et au Règlement de l'île, ces Ordonnances ne seront pas mises à exécution.

Dispositions Particulières.

Une amnistie générale sera proclamée.

Les impôts arriérés ne seront pas exigés des agriculteurs. Quant aux fermiers et, aux agents de l'Administration qui sont débiteurs envers le fisc, il sera procédé à leur égard suivant les dispositions de l'Iradé précédemment transmis à cet effet.

Il sera permis aux habitants de garder leurs armes, mais personne n'aura le droit de les porter sans la permission de l'autorité.

Un arrangement définitif sera adopté pour les dettes antérieures aux événements de 1866, afin de faciliter aux débiteurs insolvables l'exécution de leurs obligations.

Indépendamment des immeubles qui ont été saisis provisoirement à la suite des

événements de 1866, s'il y a des propriétés de cette catégorie vendus, l'autorité locale s'adressera a la Sublime Porte pour faire ce qui est requis.

Le Règlement relatif aux caisses des orphelins Chrétiens présenté par les cinq Démogéronties de l'île, après avoir été examiné ici, sera soumis à la sanction de la Sublime Porte.

Des bureaux spéciaux seront créés dans l'île pour les conventions et pour tous actes de vente d'immeubles autres que les actes de transfer "fraghet," ainsi que pour l'inscription des hypothèques et des dépôts.

Ces Articles et dispositions ont été discutés dans le Conseil des Ministres, qui a adopté les modifications ci-dessus comme conformes aux besoins locaux et aux exigences de la situation.

L'affaire ayant été soumise à ma sanction Impériale, j'ordonne que le présent Firman, revêtu de mon écriture Impériale, soit promulgué et publié, et qu'il soit fait en conséquence.

Le 29 Chewal 1295.

No. 338.

Major Gordon, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—*(Received November* 15.)

(No. 12.) [B.B.]

Constantinople, November 4, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose Protocols Nos. 1 and 2 of the first and second sittings for the delimitation of Eastern Roumelia.

Your Lordship will perceive that Colonel Philippoff, the Commissioner for Russia, on account of illness, was unable to attend the first meeting. He has now recovered his health, and will accompany the Commission, which proceeds to Adrianople to-morrow, the 5th instant.

Whilst travelling in Roumelia, I will make every endeavour to collect any information of a reliable and important nature, and will, without delay, acquaint his Excellency Sir Henry Layard.

I will further bear in mind that the frontier line we are called upon to fix is purely of a geographical and not of a military or strategic nature; in this I think I may look for the support of most of my colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

Inclosure in No. 338.

Commission de Délimitation des Frontières de la Roumélie Orientale.

Protocole No. 2.—*Séance tenue à Constantinople au Lycée Impérial de Galata-Serai, le* 30 *Octobre,* 1878.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. Krahmer, Capitaine d'État-Major.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. le Comte de Wurmbrand, Capitaine d'État-Major.

Pour la France—
M. Nicolas, Capitaine du Génie.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
Mr. Gordon, Major d'État-Major.
Adjoint: M. de Wolski, Lieutenant de Génie.

Pour l'Italie—
M. Tornaghi, Capitaine d'État-Major.

Pour la Russie—
M. Philippoff, Colonel d'État-Major.

Pour la Turquie—
Chakir Bey, Colonel d'État-Major.
Adjoints: Hilmi Bey, Commandant d'État-Major, et
Nichan Effendi, Employé au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.

M. LE COLONEL PHILIPPOFF déclare que l'état de santé lui permet de prendre part à la date de ce jour aux travaux de la Commission.

Le procès-verbal de la séance précédente est lu et adopté.

La Commission décide qu'elle se rendra à Andrinople le 5 Novembre prochain.

La séance est levée à 3 heures.

(Signé) KRAHMER.
DE WURMBRAND.
NICOLAS.
GORDON.
TORNAGHI.
PHILIPPOFF.
CHAKIR BEY.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) NICHAN.
DE WOLSKI.

No. 339.

Mr. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—*(Received November* 15.)

(No. 3.)

Constantinople, November 6, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for your Lordship's information, two copies of the newspaper "La Turquie" of the 30th October, 1878, containing a translation of the instructions issued by the Ottoman Government for the guidance of the Financial Commission.

At a sitting of the Commission yesterday this translation was compared with the original instructions in Turkish by two members of the Commission, and was considered to represent correctly the sense of the original document with the single exception, which I have indicated by the addition in manuscript of the word "directement" in the 3rd Article describing the functions of the Commission:—

"Elle (la Commission) s'adressera pour la vérification directement aux fonctionnaires chargés de la gestion," &c.

The regulations provide for the publication of all such decisions of the Commis-

sion as may be sanctioned by His Majesty the Sultán, but it has been considered proper by the Commission to provide in their rules of business for absolute secrecy in regard to their deliberations and proceedings, it being understood that the obligation to secrecy would not operate to prevent the foreign members of the Commission from communicating confidentially to their respective Governments such matters as it might appear proper so to communicate, having regard to the interest of those Governments in the objects of the inquiry, and in the well-being of the Turkish Empire.

The first question that will engage the attention of the Commission is that of the condition of the "caimé," or inconvertible paper currency, and the means that can be made available for relieving the finances from the burden imposed by this form of debt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

Inclosure in No. 339.

Extract from "La Turquie" of October 30, 1878.

Les journaux Turcs de ce matin publient le Règlement prescrivant le mode de formation et définissant les attributions de la Commission pour la réforme et la réorganisation des finances de l'Empire.

Voici la traduction de ce Règlement:—

Article 1. La Commission, excepté les Vendredis et les Dimanches, se réunira tous les jours.

Art. 2. La Commission est composée au minimum de sept et au maximum de onze membres.

Art. 3. Les devoirs fondamentaux de la Commission sont: (1) après vérification et examen, dans tous les détails, des recettes et des dépenses générales de l'Empire, la Commission élaborera pour l'année financière prochaine un budget général exact et réel et de nature à assurer la confiance dans les finances; (2) elle cherchera et soumettra à la Sublime Porte, pour qu'elle en demande la sanction Impériale, les moyens et les procédés à adopter pour l'amélioration et la garantie de la gestion des finances; elle décidera, après examen approfondi de la dette générale et de la dette flottante, quelle somme pourra être affectée au paiement des intérêts de la dette, eu égard aux revenus annuels; elle délibérera sur les moyens d'obtenir une réduction réelle des dépenses extraordinaires, de faire des économies, de diminuer les dépenses ordinaires, et de rechercher enfin l'amélioration des revenus; elle délibérera, en outre, sur les moyens de régler le système des perceptions et des encaissements; (3) elle s'adressera pour la vérification directement aux fonctionnaires chargés de la gestion, aura recours aux registres du Trésor, et demandera sans retard les budgets des divers départements qu'elle examinera et vérifiera dans tous leurs détails; (4) elle examinera les divers projets qui ont été présentés pour le retrait et la suppression du caimé et recherchera une mesure efficace pour atteindre le but désiré.

Art. 4. Ainsi qu'il est dit dans l'Article 3, les décisions que la Commission soumettra à la Sublime Porte seront discutées et minutieusement examinées par le Conseil des Ministres. Lorsqu'il sera dûment constaté qu'elles sont en tout point conformes aux droits du Souverain et aux intérêts de l'Etat et de la nation, elles seront soumises, par "mazbata," à la sanction Impériale. Sanctionnées par le Sultan, les décisions de la Commission seront immédiatement mises à exécution.

Art. 5. Sur les décisions adoptées par la Commission il y aura, si besoin est, des réunions délibératives extraordinaires au Palais en présence de Sa Majesté le Sultan. Le Conseil des Ministres, le Président de la Commission, et, suivant le cas, quelques membres de la Commission seront appelés à ces réunions.

Art. 6. Si la Commission reconnaît la nécessité d'introduire quelques clauses complémentaires dans ce Règlement, elle les fera connaître à la Sublime Porte en les accompagnant d'un exposé des motifs. Si elles sont acceptées par la Sublime Porte elles seront soumises à la sanction Impériale et mises à exécution aussitôt que l'Iradé Impérial aura été promulgué.

Art. 7. Les décisions de la Commission, après l'approbation Impériale, seront publiées dans les journaux de la capitale.

Art. 8. La Commission aura à sa disposition un bureau composé de huit Secrétaires et formé de deux personnes connaissant les langues étrangères, de quatre

personnes compétentes en matière de comptabilité et de deux personnes pour la correspondance.

Art. 9. La durée de l'existence de la Commission est subordonnée à l'achèvement et à l'exécution des devoirs énumérés dans l'Article 3. Après l'élaboration du budget général, la fixation de l'intérêt à payer pour la dette générale et l'accomplissement des autres devoirs fondamentaux de la Commission, celle-ci sera dissoute en vertu d'un Iradé Impérial.

No. 340.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 15.)

(No. 54. Confidential.)

Sir, *Buda-Pesth, November 7, 1878.*

HAVING this morning learnt from your Excellency's private letter of the 5th instant that you would be glad to know what news Count Andrassy had from Servia, and what his Excellency might think of Mr. Gould's suggestion that, as soon as the Frontier Commission shall have completed its labours, the Great Powers should call upon Servia to withdraw her troops within proper limits, I lost no time in going to Buda to obtain the desired information.

I told Count Andrassy that Mr. Gould reported a sudden and complete change in the apparent policy of Servia, which had hitherto been peaceable and correct, and that military preparations had been taken in hand in the Principality. I adverted to the intended sojourn of Prince Milan and his Ministers at Nisch during the winter, and the probability that the transfer of the seat of Government, even if only temporary, is undertaken to facilitate communication with the Russian army of occupation, as well as under the idea that Belgrade is rather too near the Austro-Hungarian frontier. Finally, I spoke to Count Andrassy of Mr. Gould's suggestion as to the withdrawal of the Servian troops, to which I have already referred, explaining that your Excellency had not as yet any information as to the opinion of Her Majesty's Government with regard to it.

Count Andrassy said that "his programme is and will continue to be the strict execution of the Treaty of Berlin;" that he should be quite ready to support any steps taken to induce the Turks to give up to the Servians, and the Servians to the Turks, what was respectively their due, and that he was particularly anxious to be able to state in the Delegations that the Treaty is being executed by the Turks.

As for the hybernation of Prince Milan and his Government at Nisch, Count Andrassy said that M. Ristics had explained that, as Servia must now renounce all idea of territorial aggrandizement on the side of Bosnia, the Prince and his advisers were anxious to counteract any intrigues that might be set on foot, to the prejudice of the Principality by the Bulgarians, and that Nisch was a more convenient centre of operations for this purpose than Belgrade would be. Count Andrassy added that he thought that there was a certain amount of truth in this explanation, and, at any rate, Belgrade would be none the further from the Austro-Hungarian frontier because Prince Milan deserted it.

Count Andrassy was in a hurry to wait on the Emperor, and begged me to come to him again when he had mentioned the subject to His Majesty; but before I left him he said that he had just received a telegram from Count Zichy at Constantinople, reporting that the insurrectionary movement was rapidly gaining ground. Hurried as he was, he laid great stress upon his desire to be able to declare to the Delegations that the Treaty of Berlin is being executed by the Turks, and certainly gave me to understand by his manner that he rather intended to be their advocate than otherwise in the ensuing discussions. It is perfectly intelligible that, although his Excellency may feel tolerably reassured as to his chances of success in the justification of his policy to the satisfaction of the majority in the Delegations, he would be glad to be able to strengthen his position, and at least to conciliate public opinion in Hungary, by saying a good word for Turkey. But he remarked that if the Porte had not been so ill-advised as to concentrate a force of 45,000 men to prevent the Austro-Hungarian army from advancing in a direction in which it had no intention of proceeding, it would have been in a position to deal decisively with the now insurrectionary movement, which would then never have attained its present proportions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 341.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 15.)

(No. 56.)

Buda-Pesth, November 8, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 54 of yesterday, reporting my conversation with Count Andrassy respecting the attitude of Servia, I have the honour to state that his Excellency informed me this morning that he had telegraphed to Prince Wrede, the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Belgrade, to urge upon the Servian Government the withdrawal of their troops within proper limits as soon as the Frontier Commission shall have finished its labours.

Baron Orczy, whom I saw subsequently, stated that the Austro-Hungarian member of the Delimitation Commission had reported that no portion of the territory to be ceded to Servia was now occupied by Turkish troops.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 342.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 15.)

(No. 57.)

Buda-Pesth, November 8, 1878.

Sir,

COUNT ANDRASSY this morning requested me to inform your Excellency that he had heard from Count Schouvaloff that he hoped to pay him a visit at Buda Pesth in three or four days' time. His Excellency said that he had no idea what Count Schouvaloff wanted to say to him, and that he was very glad to know that your Excellency had already made arrangements for coming here, and that he hoped you would arrive soon enough to prevent people from putting about the story, which would otherwise certainly receive currency, that he was negotiating a separate arrangement with Russia.

It is easy to understand that, with the Delegations in Session, Count Andrassy must be very anxious that no such idea should gain credit. He will have, as it is, to encounter some bitter attacks, and he may well apprehend that the visit of Count Schouvaloff, just at this moment, may add venom to the shafts that will be aimed at him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 343.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 15.)

(No. 61.)

Buda-Pesth, November 11, 1878.

Sir,

THE Emperor received the Delegations yesterday at the Palace at Buda.

The Austrian Delegation was received at noon. Its President, Count Coronini, delivered an address to His Majesty, expressing the devotion and loyalty of the Austrian Provinces, adverting to the valour recently displayed by the army, and declaring the intention of the Delegation to give its best attention to the proposals to be submitted to it by the Common Ministry.

His Majesty replied in a speech of which I inclose a translation, and the salient points of which I telegraphed this morning to the Marquis of Salisbury.

At 1 o'clock the Emperor received the Hungarian Delegation, whose address was delivered by M. Szlavy. His Excellency followed Count Coronini's example in his declarations as to the loyalty and devotion of the subjects of the Hungarian Crown, but entered more at length into the recent military achievements, and the glory thereby acquired by the army. His Excellency then said that it would be the duty of the Delegation to make itself acquainted with the motives and scope of the policy of the Government on the Eastern Question, and to use its best efforts for the maintenance of the administrative and financial interests of the Monarchy. That it counted upon His Majesty's support, and upon his paternal love for a people who, in spite of divisions of race and differences of opinion, are ever one, and unchangeable in the utterance of the prayer, "God defend and preserve His Majesty."

The Emperor's answer was delivered in Hungarian, but is the literal transcript of his speech to the Austrian Delegation.

The passage relating to the logical and complete execution of the Berlin Treaty ("Seine konsequente und allseitige Durchführung") was hailed by both Delegations with loud applause.

The Buda-Pesth journals notice with satisfaction that His Majesty's declaration on this subject is almost simultaneous and identical with the statements made by the Earl of Beaconsfield the evening before at the banquet at Guildhall.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 343.

Speech of the Emperor at the Reception of the Austro-Hungarian Delegations.

(Translation.)

IN view of the important questions which were pending during your last Session, I accept your assurances of loyal devotion with double gratification.

They were critical circumstances under which the Delegations last assembled.

Events in the East had entered upon a decisive phase. We were upon the eve of a Congress, which was to bring the results of the war into harmony with the claims of the balance of power in Europe, and with the nearly-affected interests of the Monarchy.

At that grave conjuncture the means were accorded by a notable patriotism, by which my Government was enabled to exert their influence successfully in both these directions, both during and after the Congress.

It is a source of sincere pleasure to me that the Congress succeeded in averting the danger of a European war.

The Treaty of Berlin has created a new condition of things in the Balkan provinces.

The logical and complete execution of this Treaty, for which my Government will act with every regard to its engagements, is calculated to prevent the return of dangers which threatened the peace of Europe and our national interests. (Applause.)

For the attainment of this aim the Powers assembled at Berlin unanimously decided to charge Austria-Hungary with the occupation and administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

I have undertaken this task.

I regret that, owing to the profound disturbance of the internal condition of these provinces, it was impossible to carry out the work of occupation in a peaceful manner.

The resistance to our benevolent intentions, presented by the elements of anarchy, yielded in a short time to the valour of my brave troops.

Upon this occasion the army, passing beyond its general defensive obligations, gave proof of its capacity in the most brilliant manner.

I congratulate you, gentlemen, upon this success, you who are the representatives of those from the midst of whom the army was summoned, and who are, at the same time, members of those bodies which, with insight and patriotism, have supported my Government in the organization and development of our armed power. (Applause.)

The speedy and thorough solution of the military task has delivered the inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina from the terrorism of the insurgent Chiefs, and has placed it in my power to order the recall of a considerable portion of the army of occupation.

It will now be the earnest effort of my Government to bring the sacrifices which the execution of this task has exacted into harmony with the financial condition of the Monarchy, and to accelerate the arrival of the moment when the administration of Bosnia and the Herzegovina may be provided for by means furnished by those provinces themselves.

The hope that this will be realized appears the better grounded, inasmuch as our relations with all the Powers continue to be of the best.

Gentlemen, you are called upon to make heavy sacrifices.

Great historical emergencies, whose prevention lay in the power of no State, have come upon the Monarchy with extraordinary demands.

I am confident that the patriotism of my people, that the perspicacity of their Representatives, will not fall short of the importance of this historical crisis.

I am persuaded that you will unite your efforts with those of my Government, that the work which has been inaugurated for the maintenance of the peace of Europe, for the welfare and glory of the Monarchy, and for the consolidation of our domestic and foreign relations, may be brought to a fortunate conclusion.

In this conviction I wish for your labours a salutary result, and heartily bid you welcome.

No. 344.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 787.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November* 8, 1878.

THE Austro-Hungarian Government having consented to allow the Turkish prisoners from Bosnia and the Herzegovina to be sent back to Turkey, those who had been confined at Linz and other places in this neighbourhood were forwarded last week by the Ottoman Ambassador to Trieste, where he had chartered a vessel for their conveyance to Turkey.

There were among them many women and children, who had come here with or had followed their husbands and fathers; and Essad Bey tells me that such of them as belonged to a better class of life, but had had to depend entirely on the Government allowance, were in a lamentable state of destitution.

He further tells me that among the prisoners were many civilians, telegraph clerks, and other employés of the Porte or local government in Bosnia, who had taken no part in the resistance to the Austrian troops, and for whose detention as prisoners he could not account.

This being no doubt the statement of the individuals themselves to the Ambassador, it is probable that they may not have been so unconnected with the resistance as they pretend; but there has been such conclusive evidence of General Philippovich having adopted the system of looking upon all Mussulmans as enemies whom it was desirable to get rid of, that it may well be believed that many persons against whom no crime could be alleged beyond that of belonging to the Mahommedan religion, and, perhaps, of feeling an attachment to the Sovereign and Caliph, have been treated as rebels and insurgents.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 345.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 789.)

My Lord, *Vienna, November* 9, 1878.

COUNT ANDRASSY and the two Under-Secretaries were absent when I received from Mr. Gould a copy of his telegram to your Lordship of the 4th instant, recommending that when the Servian Frontier Commission had fixed the line of demarcation the Powers should call upon Prince Milan to withdraw his troops within it.

I requested Mr. Monson to endeavour to ascertain from the Count how he regarded the proposal, respecting which, however, I said that I was of course not yet acquainted with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon it. I had also desired Mr. Monson to mention that, according to the most recent reports from Mr. Gould, there appeared to be no ground for the belief that the Turks still occupied territory to be made over to Servia.

Mr. Monson informs me that he has reported to your Lordship the manner in which Count Andrassy spoke of Mr. Gould's suggestion; and I will, therefore, only observe that, as his Excellency's explanations of his foreign policy will have to be made to the Delegations at Pesth almost immediately, your Lordship will perceive how desirable it is that, in declaring his firm adherence to the Treaty, he should be able to represent the Porte as taking measures for fully carrying it out; and, as long as

Podgoritza and Spitza are not evacuated, the Sultan's Government will not be regarded as standing right before the Contracting Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 346.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 222. Political.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, November* 9, 1878.

THE increasing efforts of Russia to compel Roumania to accept engagements which would confer on the former Power full military possession of the Dobrudja continue to form the absorbing topic of interest here.

This is not to be wondered at, for this question of Russian military pretensions is assuming such a form that it may involve the future destiny of Roumania.

Two days ago a telegram *en clair* was addressed by the Emperor's orders from Livadia to the Russian Minister here, of which I beg to inclose a copy which I have succeeded in obtaining, with a request that it may be considered as procured by me in the strictest confidence, and as such not to be communicated beyond the circle of persons to whom papers for the Cabinet are shown.

The contents of this telegram need no comment from me, but they indicate on the part of the Imperial Cabinet a determination to push matters to extremes, and a decided purpose to make of the Dobrudja a Russian province.

The Roumanian Government may therefore hope that the other Powers will extend to the stipulations made in their favour the same interest and vigilance which they show to other parts of that European compact.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 346.

M. de Giers to the Russian Minister at Bucharest.

(Télégraphique.)

L'EMPEREUR veut que les négociations avec le Gouvernement Roumain au sujet de nos communications à travers la Dobroudja soient menés et signés par vous; ce télégramme pourra vous servir de plein pouvoir.

(Signé) GIERS.

[N.B.—The date on the above telegram is illegible, but it appears to have been sent off from Livadia on the 7th November, 1878, N.S.]

No. 347.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 224. Political. Secret.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, November* 11, 1878.

AS I had the honour to inform your Lordship, the Russian Cabinet continues to insist on its exorbitant pretensions of converting the new Roumanian acquisition across the Danube (the Dobrudscha) into a kind of Russian "place d'armes," and demands from this Government, prior to its occupying the new territory, a written engagement by which Russia may retain not only certain military roads, but even the right of holding garrisons at Sulina and in several other places.

One of these is to be the port of Kustendji on the Black Sea, the terminus of the railway, and that place is being, I hear, strengthened at this moment, and guns are being again mounted there in position, owing to a generally prevailing opinion amongst all Russians here, that a war with England is imminent.

All this state of things produces considerable alarm at Bucharest, and is aggra-

vated by the uncertainty which prevails as to what the other Great Powers are likely to do in case of an open collision between this Principality and her recent ally.

A few days ago, when the decision was come to to refuse the signature of a Convention on the terms suggested rather than submitted by Russia, it was proposed at the same time to put an end to this state of uncertainty by notifying to that Power that Roumania intends crossing the Danube with her troops into the Dobrudscha, and immediately after doing so, to communicate this purpose to the other Signatory Powers and carry it out.

Within the last twenty-four hours much hesitation has succeeded to the favour with which the above plan was viewed, and some of the Roumanian Ministers have spoken to me confidentially of the perils to which they might expose their country by adopting this course, should the Russians really offer an armed resistance to their advance into the Dobrudscha.

It is well understood here that, unless England were at war with Russia, or at least unless our fleet had been ordered to sail into the Black Sea, it would be impossible for Her Majesty's Government to give Roumania any other but moral support against Russia.

But it is hoped that your Lordship could induce the Austrian Government to speak out more plainly as regards this question, and that Power could, if she chose, prevent any Russian aggressive plans in this direction.

Unfortunately, up to this moment, the Roumanians pretend not to be fully enlightened of the view which Count Andrassy takes of their present difficulties.

They know that Austria would feel very sore at the presence of large Russian military forces in certain parts of Roumania, but it is exactly from these parts that the Russian troops are being withdrawn rapidly and most unexpectedly within the last fortnight.

This would almost lead to suppose that Russia intends, out of regard for Austrian susceptibilities, to confine her extensive military operations to Bessarabia and thence to the new Roumanian territory across the Danube.

But if so, has Russia any reason to hope that Austria-Hungary will look with indifference or apathy should Roumania be subjected to a new act of aggression and to the occupation of her south-eastern frontier?

It is with a view to clear up her doubts and apprehensions, and to guide her steps by friendly advice in the dangers with which she is beset on different sides, that Roumania looks forward to a timely hint from Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 348.

Mr. Fane to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Berne, November 13, 1878.*

IN the course of a visit which I yesterday paid to the President, I took the opportunity of inquiring whether there was any truth in the newspaper report that the Russian Government had applied to the Federal Council for copies of the Federal and Cantonal constitutions of Switzerland, to be turned to use (so it was pretended) in the organization of Eastern Roumelia.

His Excellency said that the report in question was a substantially correct one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND FANE.

No. 349.

Mr. Montefiore to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 15.)

(Private.)
My Lord, *4, Great Stanhope Street, Mayfair, November 14, 1878.*

I AM in receipt of your Lordship's letter of the 12th instant, in which you kindly inform me of the telegram which had been received by the Marquis of Salisbury from Philippopolis, with respect to the Jewish emigrants from Eastern Roumelia and refugees in that province, and suggesting measures for their safety.

I feel extremely obliged to your Lordship for having so kindly communicated this intelligence, as the matter is one in which the Jewish community in England feel a lively interest.

I will at once take steps with a view to bring the matter under the consideration of the Anglo-Jewish Association and the Board of Deputies.

With, &c.
(Signed) J. M. MONTEFIORE,
President of the Board of Deputies.

No. 350.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, November 14, 1878.*

THE Roumanian Agent has just been to ask me to request your Lordship to send instructions to the British Delegate in the Danube Commission to support the claim of the Roumanian Government, that the Captains of Ports of the Danube in the Dobrudscha should depend on the Roumanian Government as the riverain Power. He says he made the same request yesterday to Count Maffei, who found it just and natural.

He is anxious for your Lordship's answer.

No. 351.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 14, 1878.*

I WISH to obtain from the Rhodope an exact report of the condition of the refugees, and, in order to do this in a way as little unpleasant as possible to the Russians, I have asked Mr. Mackenzie Wallace, who is much liked by them, to go there with Walpole.

He is quite inclined to go, but does not like doing so without the consent of the "Times."

Would your Lordship obtain this permission, as the journey is most desirable.

No. 352.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 14, 1878.*

CAN [you] let me know by telegraph what power Queen has to dis [allow] laws passed in Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, which have received assent of Governor?

No. 353.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 15.)

(No 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 14, 1878.*

I UNDERSTAND that at a Bulgarian meeting, held to-day, it was resolved to send a deputation to Livadia to petition Emperor in the Bulgarian sense.

No. 354.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(No. 998.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 14, 1878.

FOLLOWING from Captain Trotter, dated Erzeroum:—

"Have arrived and was received on Sunday by the Vali; perfect tranquillity here and at Alashkerd."

No. 355.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 15.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November* 15, 1878.

COLONEL HOME sent following telegram a few days ago to transmit to your Lordship:—

"Please telegraph to London and Constantinople, the Commission fixed yesterday point of Roumanian frontier at 800 mètres to the east of the old enceinte of Silistria: Russian Commissioner alone voted against the proposal, he tried for point 20 kilom. further to the east. Leave Silistria, Thursday 6th [7th?]"

No. 356.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1878.

IT is said Russian Ambassador at Paris is purchasing arms, &c., for Bulgarians. Have you heard anything of the kind?

No. 357.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 114. Political.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, November* 2, 1878.

SINCE I had the honour of addressing your Lordship on the 28th ultimo, Costaki Pasha has made a hurried visit to the Caza of Apokorona, and has succeeded, with the general concurrence of the inhabitants, in re-establishing the local authorities. His Excellency seems to have decided not to visit for the present the remaining Cazas of Kissamos, Selino, and Sphakia, but to await the arrival of the Sultan's Firman, sharing the universal belief that the choice of the new Governor-General will be made known simultaneously with its promulgation. Costaki Pasha feels, I apprehend, that in the event of his being confirmed in his post he will be in a position to take more decided measures, and to set at defiance many personal influences which now trammel his action. At the same time His Excellency seems quite prepared to hear of his supersession, and there is a great impatience on the part of the public to know whether their present Governor will remain or whether he will be replaced by another, the sympathies of the Christians being evidently with Costaki Pasha.

No decision has yet been come to about the demands put forward by the Sphakians, as explained in my despatch No. 112. I yesterday received a letter from some leading men of that caza, informing me that they intend to send a deputation on the subject to the Governor-General, and asking me to support their petition. His Excellency already knows my views on the subject, but he naturally shrinks from the responsibility of deciding the matter himself, and thinks the consent of the next General Assembly must now be obtained before the commutation of the tithes of the Sphakians into a fixed annual payment can be effected. The latter, on the other hand, are unwilling to leave the decision with the General Assembly, for while the Cretans in general would view special privileges conferred on the Sphakians by the Porte with comparative indifference, they would hardly be disposed to vote them

themselves. The proper moment to have set these claims at rest was when negotiations, were still going on, but Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha was ever averse from yielding any point till at the last extremity, and the Sphakians standing alone could not speak with the same weight as the Cretans combined. The latter feel sore that Sphakia should contribute but 240 or 250 Turkish liras towards the expense of its administration which amount to nearly 3,000 Turkish pounds, but the commutation of the tithes of that barren district into a fixed annual payment can make no difference in this respect, and there is no question of augmenting their taxes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

P.S.—*November* 4. A deputation consisting of seven of the principal Sphakians called upon me this morning, and begged me, in the name of their countrymen, to do all in my power to obtain for them the privileges they desire. Both the Governor-General and the Commissioner seem indisposed to yield to their pretensions, while the deputies gave me to understand that, from what they knew of the temper of their countrymen, they will not consent to receive their new authorities until they are satisfied. The question is thus assuming a serious aspect, and I cannot but feel that the Commissioner is to blame for allowing it to reach its present proportions, as I always warned his Excellency that the Sphakians were in earnest, and I could not see that there was any sacrifice of dignity in leaving them in the enjoyment of trifling privileges which they had been in possession of for 200 years up to 1868.

As for the assertion that they contribute only a tenth part of the cost of the local administration, they declare that they are possessed of property in the surrounding districts, particularly in Apokorona, ten times more valuable than the sterile fields in Sphakia itself, all which pays tithes within those districts. I cannot vouch for the calculation, but it is well known that the Sphakians are men of substance, which is not derived from their home resources.

I urged on them the exercise of moderation and patience, lest any hasty decision on their part should bring the new settlement into jeopardy; but I venture to think that, in the interests of the general welfare, the Porte would do well to instruct either the Commissioner or the Vali to give the Sphakians the satisfaction they seek for.

T. B. S.

No. 358.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 115. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, November* 4, 1878.

THREE weeks having been elapsed since the arrangement come to between the Ottoman Commissioner and the Christian delegates was signed, an opportunity has been afforded of judging of the effect produced by that arrangement on both Christians and Mussulmans. So far as my means of information go, the effect amongst the Christians has been satisfactory. They acknowledge that there is now no difference between themselves and their Mussulman compatriots so far as the written law is concerned, and that there will not be so in practice, they felt pretty confident from the moment that they were assured that a Christian Vali would be appointed. There are those who regret that a looser political connection between Crete and the Porte, such as exists in the case of Samos, had not been decided on, just as there are advocates of the annexation of the island to Greece or of its being placed under British protection. The great bulk of the Christians are, however, I am persuaded, fairly contented with the present arrangement provided it be guaranteed by Her Majesty's Government, and it seems to me that if only the island be well administered, they will be more contented still, as they cannot fail to be struck with the difference of their position in respect to the Mussulmans which the recent modifications in the Organic Law have effected. It should henceforth be a more difficult task for agents of the Greek Committees to stir up the people to a fresh revolt, in spite of the presence of a considerable class of Cretans who have no material interests in the island and who are always ready for any new adventure, but this class will diminish with the increase of prosperity which may be looked for.

It is an encouraging sign that several of the Chiefs who habitually resided in Greece have declared their intention of settling in the island, and several more would

follow their example if they had any honourable means of livelihood. If time, therefore, only be allowed for the growth of some material prosperity, the motives impelling to revolution will gradually cease, seeing that the grievances of which the Christians had complained will have practically disappeared.

The Mussulmans naturally are not pleased with the new arrangement. As, however, I had before the honour of pointing out, this is only true of the urban population, the peasantry being wholly indifferent. I need not again repeat my reasons for believing that the discontented Mussulmans will gradually acquiesce in the new order of things.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 359.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 926.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November* 11, 1878.

I HAD the honour to receive by post last evening your Lordship's despatch No. 566 of the 6th instant, and, in conformity with the instructions therein contained, I addressed this day a note to M. de Giers, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, communicating to his Excellency a copy of your Lordship's despatch above referred to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 359.

Lord A. Loftus to M. de Giers.

M. le Conseiller Privé Actuel, *St. Petersburgh, November* 11, 1878.

IN conformity with the instructions of the Marquis of Salisbury, Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency copy of a despatch which I have received for communication to your Excellency.

I avail, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 360.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 482.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Rome, November* 12, 1878.

IN a visit I paid to Count Maffei this afternoon, he referred to the official notice inserted in the "Diritto" of the 9th instant, of which I forwarded a translation to your Lordship in my despatch No. 478 of the same date, denying the assertion in Mr. McColl's letter to the "Times" of the 2nd instant, that the Italian Delegate, after having signed the collective Report of the Rhodope Commission, had withdrawn his signature from it.

Count Maffei told me that the day this notice had appeared in the "Diritto," the Russian Ambassador had called upon him and expressed his surprise at its insertion, saying that it would be contradicted at St. Petersburgh, where the proofs existed of the Italian Delegate having acted in the way imputed to him. Count Maffei's reply to this was that he could not understand how such proof could exist, for the Italian Delegate had never signed a collective Report, and consequently could not have subsequently withdrawn his signature from it. What had happened Count Maffei told me was this:—

On the proposed collective Report being sent by the Italian Delegate to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, it had appeared to Baron Calvagna that, as the Austrian, German, and Russian Delegates had declined to sign it, its being presented

in a collective form by the Delegates of England, France, Italy, and Turkey, although certainly forming the majority of the Commission, would be an offensive proceeding towards Russia, and he had therefore directed Signor Graziani to suggest to his English, French, and Turkish colleagues that, instead of signing the Report collectively, each Delegate should make a separate Report, but in identic terms, and this suggestion had been accepted by them and acted upon accordingly.

Count Maffei showed me the letter and Report, now printed with other diplomatic documents, ready for presentation to the Italian Parliament, addressed by the Italian Delegate to the Italian Legation in Constantinople, and I found, on comparison, that they were identic with those addressed by Consul-General Fawcett to Sir H. A. Layard, on the 28th August last (see printed Papers, No. 49, presented to Parliament), and this was the only Report of the Rhodope Commission, Count Maffei said, of which the Italian Government had any knowledge.

Count Maffei added that he was not sorry that this incident had arisen, as he had reason to believe there was an impression in London that the proceedings of the Italian Delegate had not been quite straightforward in this matter, whereas it would now be seen that his conduct had been precisely similar to that of his English, French, and Turkish colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 361.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 915. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 15, 1878.

M. CALLIMAKI CATARGI told me this afternoon that he had no very recent intelligence respecting the demand of Russia for a military right of way through the Dobrudscha. Of one thing, however, I might, he said, be perfectly sure. The Roumanians would never voluntarily concede this right. If abandoned by the Powers of Europe, they might yield to force as they had done with regard to Bessarabia; but so long as they had the means of holding out, they most certainly would not give way.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 362.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 999. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 14, 1878.

PORTE receives information from its Consul at Odessa that preparations for war are being made there on a very large scale, especially as regards torpedoes. Vice-Consul at Bourgas writes that 10,000 Russian troops were landed there last week, and that many transports have disembarked cargoes there, the nature of which he has not been able to ascertain.

No. 363.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 1000.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 14, 1878.

ROUMANIAN Minister has communicated to me following telegram from his Government:—

"Urgently endeavour to induce Porte and British Ambassador to instruct by telegraph their Delegates on the Danube Commission to admit that the Harbourmasters, including the one for Sulina, should depend upon the territorial Power, that

is Roumania, who will also be charged with the execution of the measures adopted by the Commission."

I have told him I have no authority to give such instructions, which must come from Her Majesty's Government.

He states that Porte is disposed to accept proposal.

No. 364.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 1001.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 14, 1878.

FOLLOWING figures received from Blunt, dated the 14th November:—

"Official telegram from Salonica reports that, the 8th instant, a large number of Bulgarian insurgents attacked Turkish troops not far from Melnick; the troops, assisted by armed Mohammedan villagers, dispersed them, killing forty and capturing six prisoners, besides quantity of Russian rifles and ammunition."

No. 365.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 1003.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 15, 1878.

RUSSIAN Ambassador is very anxious that the French Ambassador should at once communicate with his colleagues with a view to addressing a collective and identic note to the Porte with reference to Greece, and endeavour to get Austrian Ambassador to call a meeting to consider matter. Both have refused. French Ambassador has received a despatch from his Government instructing him as regards this note, but he has been directed by telegraph not to act on it.

No. 366.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 1004.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 16, 1878.

SULTAN informed me to-day that he is desirous of being guided by the advice of England in the Greek question. He has ordered Council of Ministers to specify the rectification of the Greek frontier which the Porte could agree to, and promises to communicate to me its decision. He desires to know whether, in the event of an arrangement being come to with Greece, any guarantee could be given to Turkey that Greece will not in future seek further extension of territory, and engage in intrigues and in fomenting disorders in the neighbouring Turkish provinces to bring it about. Will you let me know what I can say to the Sultan, as I have promised him an answer?

Hussein Pasha, of Scutari, has been dismissed, but his successor has not yet been named. Sultan stated to me that he hoped that Podgoritza and Spuz would be given up in a few days.

No. 367.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 1005.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 16, 1878.

COUNT ZICHY communicated to Grand Vizier this morning telegram from Count Andrassy, stating that Count Schouvaloff had come to Pesth to propose that Austria should acknowledge Russia's right under Treaty of San Stefano to occupy

Turkish territory outside of Eastern Roumelia until conclusion of a definitive Treaty of Peace; and that he (Count Andrassy) had replied that Austria considered the Treaty of Berlin as the definitive Treaty, and that Russia was bound to evacuate such Turkish territory. Count Andrassy urges the Porte to agree at once to the proposals made by him, and referred to in my telegram No. 995, in order that Austria may be in complete accord with the Porte.

I am doing what I can to prevail upon the Sultan to come to proposed agreement with Austria.

No. 368.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 1006.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 16, 1878.

ROUMANIAN Minister has informed Porte that Russia not only demands a military road through Dobrudscha before giving up that province, but the right to erect fortifications upon both banks of the Danube.

No. 369.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November* 15, 1878.

MR. PALGRAVE writes to me Prince Dondoukoff is going to Livadia for a fortnight, which perhaps accounts for deputation to be sent there from this place.

No. 370.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 266.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November* 16, 1878.

I HAVE asked Count Andrassy his opinion upon Turkish Circulars.

He says that he has already intimated to Porte that it is not called upon to make any new Treaty with Russia, and that he stated the same to Count Schouvaloff.

He considers this view justified by words of Treaty of Berlin, in reference to pecuniary war indemnity, which allude to an arrangement, but not to a Treaty, to be come to by the belligerents respecting its details.

No. 371.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 16.)

(No. 267.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November* 16, 1878.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF declared to Count Andrassy that he was entirely ignorant of Roumanian Government being pressed to conclude a Convention for passage of troops through the Dobrudscha.

I said that there could be no possible doubt of the fact.

Count Andrassy considers that it would be entirely at variance with the Treaty of Berlin, and has intimated to Roumanian Government that the Powers could not recognize any such Convention.

No. 372.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 268. Most Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 16, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY has told me in the strictest confidence what passed between himself and Count Schouvaloff, who had come to him declaring that he was not to be looked upon as a mere traveller, but as an Envoy of Russia. The object of his mission was to prevent the Austrian Government from joining in any protest that some might wish to make against the prolonged occupation of Turkish territory.

He stated that His Majesty had instructed him to declare his full determination to carry out the Treaty, and to complete the evacuation of the occupied country within the stipulated time, or sooner, if practicable; but he wished to satisfy the Austrian Government of the valid considerations which made it impossible to withdraw the troops from their present positions.

The first consideration was, that the Porte had not concluded the definitive Treaty; and the second was, that the populations followed the retiring army in crowds, and that it was a point of honour for the Emperor not to abandon them.

Count Andrassy replied that the point of honour which should guide His Majesty was the execution of the Treaty without any reservation; that there was not the slightest justification for the pretension of making the withdrawal of the troops dependent on a new Treaty with Turkey, and that they had no right at this moment to be where they are.

Upon this Count Schouvaloff at once abandoned that point, and said that the Emperor entirely disavowed Prince Labanoff's action in reference to it.

Count Andrassy having refused no less peremptorily to accept migration of the populations as a pretext for continuing the occupation, Count Schouvaloff tried to justify it by the delay of the Porte in the cessions to Montenegro, and he was told, in reply, that as Turkey had fulfilled many more of her obligations than Russia, the latter has no right to insist upon that point unless the Porte has a guarantee that its territory should be evacuated simultaneously with the settlement of the Montenegrin question.

Count Andrassy wished this information to be conveyed to your Lordship by me rather than by Count Beust, to whom it has not been sent.

No. 373.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 269.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 16, 1878.*

I TOLD Count Andrassy that my Turkish colleague believed his Government to wish to conclude a Convention about the Bosnian occupation, and that he had informed them that the Austrian Government would probably be still disposed to do so.

Count Andrassy said that as regards Bosnia proper it is now too late, but that he is very desirous of making such a Convention about the Novi-Bazar district; he cannot abandon what was decided at Berlin about the right of Austria to name garrisons in that country, but will consent to any arrangements showing that those garrisons are there as friends and supporters of Turkey, and in the Convention it might be provided that Turkish Commissioners should be sent into Bosnia to make arrangements about the guns and material belonging to the Porte, and something might be said about the security of the Mahommedan religion and property.

He is clearly anxious that there should be public evidence of the existence of a good understanding between the two Governments.

No. 374.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(No. 270.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 16, 1878.*

AS I found Count Andrassy anxious to act with great confidence towards us, I informed him in strict confidence of Her Majesty's Government having promised to assist Sultan in compelling the Russian evacuation at the proper period, if the Porte had fulfilled the whole of its Treaty obligations, but I did not say this had been communicated to the Roumanian Government.

He said that the communication was of too important a nature for him to be able to make any observation upon it before speaking to the Emperor.

No. 375.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret.) *Paris, November 16, 1878, 2·41 P.M.*

I HAVE not heard that the Russian Ambassador is buying arms for Bulgarians, but will see if there is anything to be found out.

No. 376.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 16, 1878.*

I HAVE not any information as to Russian purchases of arms, but I learn that the Russian Government has sent to Paris two Alsatian contractors to get a large quantity of intrenching tools made, of course in private, not French Government workshops.

A similar order was given to the same contractors just before the Russian war with Turkey.

No. 377.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Kustendje, November 16, 1878.*

DELIMITATION of Dobrudscha frontier on the ground completed. Return by Varna to Constantinople on the 22nd. All most satisfactory. Six to one against the Russian.

No. 378.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 16, 1878, 6·40 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 978, of the 7th instant, I have no objection to your sending Captain Murray, or any other suitable person, into Macedonia, if you think it desirable, but Captain Fife has resigned, and a watch ought to be kept upon the Gallipoli Peninsula for the present.

No. 379.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 582.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 16, 1878.

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency herewith a copy of a despatch, with its inclosures, which I have received from Sir H. Drummond Wolff, describing the miserable condition to which the Mussulman inhabitants of Philippopolis have been reduced by the proceedings of the Russians and the Bulgarians in that town.*

This state of things, as reported by Sir H. Drummond Wolff, is so deplorable, and the privations to which these wretched people must be exposed during the approaching winter so appalling, that Her Majesty's Government feel it their duty to make known to the Imperial Government their circumstances as they have been reported to them; and I have, therefore, to instruct your Excellency to communicate to M. de Giers, for his information, copies of Sir H. Drummond Wolff's despatch, and of its inclosure.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 380.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 528.)
My Lord, *Athens, November* 8, 1878.

IN spite of the news which has arrived at Athens of the arrangement which has been concluded and ratified between the Sublime Porte and the Cretan Representatives, it does not appear that the Greek Government has renounced the idea of stirring up trouble in the island in case they should think it profitable to their interest to do so.

I have heard on undoubted authority that all the principal Agents of the Greek Government employed formerly in Crete—natives of the island—still continue to reside in Greece, and to receive pay from this Government. One named Coraka has come here a fortnight ago, and another named Criari has just arrived. Both these persons were, I understand, leaders in the late Cretan insurrection.

There are in all twenty-six Chiefs and 300 of their followers at this moment in Greece, the former all receiving pay from this Government, and the latter earning their living in various employments.

If the pacification of Crete was really complete, and the population likely to remain satisfied, the Greek Government would renounce the hope of raising insurrection there against the Turkish Government, and would at once cease to subsidize these people, who would then be obliged to return home.

As long as these men are resident on the soil of the Kingdom it is a proof that the pacification of the island cannot be considered as likely to be of very long duration, in case it became the interest of this country to stir up revolution there.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 381.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1390.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 9, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1376 of the 6th instant, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Calvert, giving the number and distribution of the bread rations supplied to the Russian troops in Adrianople and the neighbouring districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* No. 183.

Inclosure in No. 381.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, November* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to submit to your Excellency the following analysis of the average daily number and the local distribution of bread rations supplied by the Adrianople contractors during the past week. I have obtained the particulars from the contractors themselves:—

	Rations.*
Adrianople	32,000
Kirk Kilissa	22,000
Mustafa Pasha	4,000
Harmanli	2,000
Hasskioï	10,000
	70,000
Demotica	10,000
Ouzoun Keupry	5,000
Buba-Eski	25,000
	40,000
Total rations	110,000

The 40,000 rations indicated in the last three items are exclusive of the contract for 96,000 pouds per month referred to in my despatch of the 13th ultimo, this last-mentioned quantity representing the other 70,000 rations.

The figures are approximate only and must be taken as a minimum, for the requirements at each place vary much from day to day; and as there is no little confusion in the arrangements, deficiencies are often made good by supplies of biscuit. Bread is also in some cases obtained from local resources.

The contractors inform me that since the foregoing Table was made up the number of rations deliverable at Adrianople has increased to 50,000, and 10,000 rations have to-day been ordered to be supplied at Ortakioï and other places in its immediate neighbourhood, where previously only 3,000 rations were had, independently of the contractors. This last item of information shows that an important concentration of troops is taking place in that part of the Rhodope borderland, as well as at Demotica and Hasskioï.

It will be observed that the above 110,000 rations do not comprise those for the forces stationed at Philippopolis and in the Balkan districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 382.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1391.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch and its inclosure from Consul-General Fawcett, calling attention to the deplorable condition of the Mussulman refugees in the Rhodope districts, and inquiring whether there is any probability of the measures suggested by the Commission for their relief being carried out.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

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* Loaf of $1\frac{1}{2}$ of an oke.

Inclosure 1 in No. 382.

Consul-General Fawcett to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, November 7, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a letter just received from Mr. Cullen, describing the terrible condition of the Musulman refugees in the Rhodope district, which is naturally becoming daily worse.

When the International Commission returned here, after their labours were over, four of the Mussulmans presented an identic Report, urging the Governments of Europe to come to the aid of these unfortunate people.

Since that time no sign, however, has been made that any international plan for sustaining them during the coming winter has been devised.

May I ask your Excellency if there is any probability of the measures suggested by the Commission being carried out, as it is quite hopeless to expect anything further from private charity; otherwise, I fear, they will perish miserably.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. HENRY FAWCETT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 382.

Dr. Cullen to Consul-General Fawcett.

33, Gul Khan, Pera, November 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the most distressing accounts continue to reach me from the Rhodope Balkans concerning the sad condition of the unfortunate refugees there. Having served under [?] for three months in that district, I consider it my duty to call your attention to the present deplorable condition of these poor creatures, and intreat your humane intervention on their behalf. If nothing is done to relieve them during the coming winter, thousands of these homeless sufferers will assuredly perish from hunger, cold, and disease.

Since the International Commission visited the Rhodope none of the 150,000 refugees then estimated to be in that district have been able to return to their homes in Eastern Roumelia.

The presence of the International Commission in the Rhodope, and the searching inquiries and indefatigable exertions of each member, who so loyally laboured to arrive at a thorough understanding of the best means of bettering their condition, raised hopes of repatriation to the refugees. This caused many of them to leave the plains, and make for the mountains on the way to their homes. The insurrection at and about Kirjally, and, lately, the Bulgarian insurrection advancing to the Mediterranean from Samakow and Kustendil, have driven them back on the Caza of Davidem, where thousands of them are now crowded together in the last stage of misery and want. The accounts from that district are most heart-rending. At Gumuldjina the approach of winter has brought down additional thousands from the mountains; and not only are the houses and streets of that town crowded with poor creatures in utter destitution, and suffering terribly from fever, which daily claims numerous victims, but the roads and fields in the vicinity are likewise full to overflowing. Of the 150,000 refugees in the Rhodope more than 50,000 are widows and orphans, whose piteous condition demands instant attention.

The Turkish Government is utterly incapable of coping with this terrible calamity, and the poor people feel this, and look to England to save them. I am in constant communication with the Rhodope, and any further information that may reach me from that district I shall be happy to furnish you with.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. EDWD. CULLEN.

No. 383.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 89. Political.)

My Lord,

Scutari, November 5, 1878.

AS I observe in the newspapers reaching this, both from Constantinople and elsewhere, an often repeated report that Montenegro has been put in possession of the town of Goussinié and the adjoining country, I have the honour to state that I am informed by the authorities here that nothing of the sort has occurred.

A rumour, however, exists that the inhabitants of Goussinié have sent to Cettinjé to propose an alliance with Montenegro, in order to resist the advance of the Austrians in the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

At a meeting recently held by the Podgoritzians a public instrument was drawn up reaffirming their determination not to submit to Montenegrin rule. This step was adopted, as it had transpired that an attempt had been made by Slav agents to secure signatures to a petition expressing the wish for annexation to Montenegro.

A resolution was also passed condemning to death anyone convicted of favouring the transfer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 384.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 58.)

(Telegraphic.)

Philippopolis, November 17, 1878.

THE Turkish inhabitants of the village of Bunlpolk (*sic*) were attacked by the Bulgarians on the night of the 13th, five men severely beaten and one woman violated. Some of them came to me, and I advised them to petition Governor [to protect?] them. I asked Mr. Mackenzie Wallace with Walpole to visit the spot. The former sent me this morning report as follows:—

"We have verified the story and found it correct. All Turkish houses are destroyed. What they desire is to get away because they are in danger of their lives. There are fifteen families, chiefly women and children. A Bulgarian headman prevents them from leaving."

Later two women came in—helped to do so by a friendly Bulgarian—saying that further outrages were committed after the departure of the Englishmen.

I brought this forward at Commission, and moved that the facts should be brought to the knowledge of the Governor-General by the Commission. This was voted six to one, and consequently rejected by vote of Russian alone.

I think something should be done energetically to protest against the unrestrained violence of the Bulgarians towards the Turks, which, under the protection of the Russian army, assumes the character of extermination, and this in the face of the European Commission.

Mr. Calvert, at my request, informed the Governor of Philippopolis of what had happened, and received a most improper reply, saying Mr. Calvert had no right to interfere except for British subjects.

We are getting on pretty well at the Commission as regards the project, but great difficulties are raised about finance.

Your telegram of the 12th just received. There were two Gueshoffs mentioned in my telegram of the 11th. The lives of both were saved at intercession of Her Majesty's Government.

I should be glad to hear that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to make some representation respecting the treatment of Turks, or to authorize me to do so. I think you would find support from Austrian and French Governments. The German and Italian could scarcely refuse to join in some representation, even from a humanitarian point of view.

The continuance of these horrors in the present insurrection is becoming an affront to Europe. Prince Tzeretelew said to-day, though not officially, "Ferez ce que vous voudrez, vous n'aurez que de l'eau à boire."

Other outrages on a large scale are reported, but as yet without detail. I shall send to examine.

No. 385.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Athens, November 17, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 514 of the 29th October, Russian Minister just arrived from Livadia and Constantinople holds language here to the effect that Emperor of Russia will insist on arrangement of Congress as regards Greece being carried out; that action of Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople in recommending concessions is to make French proposal unnecessary; to prolong the negotiations; in fact, that his action is really intended to favour Turkey while pretending to help Greece.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 386.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 17.)

(No. 1008.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 17, 1878.*

CARATHEODORY PASHA has been named Governor-General of Crete. The appointment is probably the best under the circumstances.

No. 387.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, November 18.)

M. le Chargé d'Affaires, *Constantinople, le 6 Novembre, 1878.*

LA Constitution Ottomane, octroyée par Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, n'a point cessé d'être la loi fondamentale de l'Etat et d'être en vigueur dans l'Empire Ottoman. Si toutes les dispositions qu'elle renferme n'ont pas reçu jusqu'à présent leur application normale et leur entier développement, c'est que les embarras du Gouvernement Impérial ne lui ont pas permis d'y consacrer tous ses soins et l'ont forcément détourné des travaux d'administration intérieure; mais la Constitution n'en est pas moins obligatoire pour tous, fonctionnaires et administrés, conformément à la volonté invariable de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Les circonstances exceptionnelles qui viennent d'être rappelées mettent obstacle aujourd'hui encore à la convocation de la Chambre des Députés et du Sénat. Le règlement des questions politiques et l'aplanissement des difficultés présentes doivent faire l'objet exclusif des préoccupations du Gouvernement Impérial et absorber tout son temps et toute son attention. Il lui serait dès lors impossible de concilier des devoirs aussi impérieux et aussi pressants avec les soins que nécessiteraient les travaux de la Session Parlementaire.

C'est en raison de ces circonstances de force majeure que notre auguste Maître, au nom des intérêts les plus graves et les plus sacrés du pays, a résolu d'ajourner à l'année prochaine la convocation des deux Chambres.

En portant cette résolution à votre connaissance, je dois ajouter que Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, dans sa sollicitude ardente pour le bien-être et la prospérité de ses peuples, hâte de tous ses vœux et de tous ses efforts le rétablissement d'un ordre de choses qui permette de faire l'application complète et régulière de toutes des dispositions de la Constitution et d'en développer tous les principes.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

No. 388.

Memorandum.—(Communicated confidentially to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Münster, November 18.)

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to the conception of the Imperial Government, the execution of the Berlin Treaty must depend purely on the free determination of the individual Powers, and no collective guarantee nor any obligation whatever for the compulsory execution of the stipulations has been undertaken on any side. This conception has met with a practical, not exactly wished-for confirmation in the manner in which individual Powers have acted in regard to the execution of Article XLIV relative to the establishment of the legal equality of all creeds in Roumania. Whilst it is not political questions, but humanitarian interests that are dealt with here, and all Cabinets during the Congress readily agreed to the resolution to make the recognition of Roumania's independence contingent on the fulfilment of the aforesaid conditions, that reservation seems to be gradually falling away. Thus, it is understood that the Italian Government has determined to recognize the independence of Roumania formally at once. Germany might, perhaps, have had more inducement thereto than any other Great Power on account of the interest and sympathy felt at Berlin for the Prince of Roumania, who is related to and intimate with the Imperial family. But although, for this reason, it becomes really difficult for the Imperial Government to adhere to the Treaty stipulations in question, yet it considers itself bound not to proceed to the formal recognition of the independence of the Principality without positive and valid security for the fulfilment of those stipulations. The Imperial Government must hesitate to do this all the more, because otherwise it would support and countenance the customary practice in Roumania in the treatment of the different creeds, a practice which is excluded by its own legal usages and constitutional enactments, and the consequence of which would be both the evasion of a condition laid down by the Congress, and the legal inequality or legal inability of the Imperial subjects abiding in Roumania.

P.S.—After the foregoing Memorandum had been prepared I received from my Government the confidential communication that the Roman Cabinet has indeed sent to its Representative at Bucharest his credentials as Envoy, but has instructed him not to deliver them until he has demanded and received from the Roumanian Government official and satisfactory declarations respecting the adjustment of the Jewish question.

No. 389.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 705.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 12, 1878.*

THE Turkish Ambassador has been asked by his Government whether he believes that Count Andrassy would still be willing to conclude a Convention with the Porte about Bosnia, and has answered that he had no doubt of his readiness to do so.

Essat Bey was unable to tell me the nature of the understanding to which the Porte wishes to come to with Austria, or whether it is to apply to the whole of Bosnia or merely to the Novi-Bazar district, which Count Andrassy has said should not be occupied without the assent of the Sultan, but he has encouraged his Government not to lose an opportunity of placing the relations of the two countries upon a better footing.

I said that if the Porte proposed to renew negotiations for a Convention, it must be careful not to insist upon a term being fixed for the duration of the occupation, as that would certainly prevent any understanding being come to.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 390.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 796.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 14, 1878.*

A DEPUTATION from the Herzegovina arrived at Vienna some days ago for the purpose of offering their homage to the Emperor on behalf of their countrymen. Although there are among them Mussulmans, said to be possessors of large properties, as well as Roman Catholic and Greek ecclesiastics of high rank, I cannot say what claim they have to be regarded as representatives of the populations of the Herzegovinians; but it seems evident that in the greater part of that province there is a disposition to accept the new state of things without further remonstrance or difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 391.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 798.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 14, 1878.*

THE text of the general amnesty proclaimed by the Austrian Commander-in-chief in Bosnia and Herzegovina has been published in the Vienna newspapers.

General Philippovich, in this Proclamation, informs the inhabitants of the two provinces that the whole of their country is now occupied by Austrian troops, that order had been restored, and an end put to the devastations of anarchy. The misguided persons who have forced some of the populations to oppose the Emperor's troops by arms have been defeated and driven from their last refuge.

According to the laws of war, it continues, all who have taken part in an insurrection are liable to the severest punishment. But in the conviction that many acted through ignorance, and now regret their error, the Commander-in-chief has obtained from the Emperor the following general amnesty:—

1. All inhabitants of Bosnia and Herzegovina who, having taken part in the insurrectionary movement have now renounced it, are assured a full pardon and amnesty.

From this amnesty are excluded all crimes which are not connected with the insurrection, such as murder, robbery, or other acts of violence.

2. This general pardon will only apply to those who, having left their homes to take part in the insurrection, still remain away or belong to any armed band, on the condition that within fourteen days after the publication of the Proclamation they make their submission in person to the nearest Austrian military Commander.

3. The pardon extends to those already in confinement for political offences, such as those for which this amnesty is granted.

Ringleaders are excepted from this amnesty; but even to them, in some cases, a pardon will be granted.

4. Finally, all those who have taken any political part, not a military one, in the insurrection, are assured a free pardon.

5. Any doubt as to the application of this amnesty will be decided by the Commander-in-chief of the Second Army, after the case has been examined by a Commission.

The Proclamation ends by stating the conviction that the inhabitants of Bosnia and the Herzegovina will unite in gratitude to the Emperor, and in the endeavour to aid in maintaining order, to further the development of the resources of the country, and to increase the general welfare.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 392.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 621. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 15, 1878.*

THE Minister for Foreign Affairs mentioned to me to-day the communications which have passed between your Lordship and the German Ambassador respecting the recognition of Roumanian independence.

His Excellency said that Count Münster had been instructed to explain the reasons to your Lordship which made the German Government wish to adhere strictly to the condition laid down in Article XLIII of the Treaty of Berlin, according to which the recognition of the independence of Roumania is subject to the establishment of religious equality in that Principality.

As some opposition is expected to the new law, the German Government are in favour of waiting until the Roumanian Parliament or Constituent Assembly have fulfilled that condition, and his Excellency expressed an earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government would not object to defer their recognition of Roumanian independence until then, in concert with the Government of Germany.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 393.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 622.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 15, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 483 A of the 6th instant, M. de Bülow told me to-day that he had been glad to learn from Count Münster that Her Majesty's Government would not refuse their general concurrence to the suggestions put forward in M. Waddington's Circular of mediation between Turkey and Greece, to which, under the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government had already given their assent.

The German Government, his Excellency said, had adhered to the French proposal, and would be prepared to act in concert with the Signatory Powers whenever they deemed the moment opportune for such a step.

If, however, the report from Constantinople proved to be correct that the Porte had resolved to take the initiative in the matter, the collective mediation of the Powers would be no longer necessary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 394.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(No. 1009.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 18, 1878.*

FOLLOWING has been received from Mr. Calvert, dated Philippopolis, yesterday:—

"I hear that Russian and Bulgarian invaders of Macedonia have been severely defeated between Smolog and Panenic by the Turks. The invaders are reported as having lost 700 men and 60 taken prisoners. The Kustendil Committee has telegraphed to Philippopolis to ask urgently for more volunteers."

No. 395.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 18.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November 18, 1878.*

ROUMANIAN Government have closed their negotiations with Russian Minister by a note which they intend communicating to Powers, and by which they decline entering on a new Convention. It appears that the Russian Government have desisted from further negotiations, and that Roumania will occupy Dobrudscha in the course of a week. The representations of the Austrian Minister and of myself have, no doubt, contributed much to this result.

No. 395*.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 18, 1878.*

I HAVE ascertained that "Times" has no objection to proposed mission of Wallace, which I approve.

No. 396.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 111.) *Foreign Office, November 18, 1878.*

Sir,

ON the receipt of your telegram of the 17th from Philippopolis, reporting outrages which had been perpetrated by Bulgarians on the night of the 13th instant upon the Turkish inhabitants of a neighbouring village, I took steps to obtain the sanction of the director of the "Times" that Mr. Mackenzie Wallace should visit the spot, as suggested by you.

Having ascertained that no objection was raised by the Director of the "Times" to this proposal, I have this day conveyed to you by telegraph my approval of your recommendation.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 397.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 154. Political.) [B.B.] *Trebizond, November 4, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith copy of a letter from Mr. Cole dated the 30th ultimo, and giving the latest intelligence from Erzeroum.

As Mr. Cole had joined the general outcry of insecurity to the life and property of the Christians in Armenia at the time of its evacuation by the Russians, I had considered it necessary to trouble your Lordship with copies of his numerous letters to me, in order to enable your Lordship to form an accurate idea, based on details, of the ground that existed for the outcry raised in that quarter.

Taking Mr. Cole's present communication as representing again the general feeling, far from detecting any motive of complaint at present on the part of the Armenians, it conveys the gratifying intelligence of the important innovation of convicting Mussulmans on the simple testimony of Christians.

It is to be hoped that this satisfactory state of things will not only continue, but also improve, especially by the presence of an English officer at Erzeroum.

A letter dated the 31st ultimo, from another source at Erzeroum, informs me that all the Koordistan is in open revolt. The last news was that the Koords between Diarbekir and Sert had carried away 9,000 sheep and numerous other cattle, and had pushed so far as the town of Bitlis.

The Dersim region continues to be surrounded by twenty Turkish battalions, but

it is said that their inaction paralyses all the influence of the civil authorities, and encourages the Koords.

It is also reported to me, as coming from trustworthy sources, that the Russians have concentrated a rather large body of troops close to the Persian frontier towards Erivan.

Six pieces of 18 centim. and eight of 15 centim., lately received from Russia, have been added to the armament of Kars.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 397.

Mr. Cole to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Sir, *Erzeroum, October 30, 1878.*

YOU ask after the Dersim region: that rebellion is pretty much crushed out, from all I can learn for the present.

Things are still moving on here with tolerable quiet. I had an invitation from Moossa Pasha the other day to meet him at the seraglio, in connection with the Bishops and a few other leading men from the Christian communities.

The object of the meeting was to ask if we thought there was no demand for a special military council, as in time of war, for the sake of security to Christians against danger of a massacre.

The reply was given that there seemed no demand for such a council at present, though there had been very serious disturbances in the past. The Pasha did not dispute it in regard to the past, but seemed much pleased that his vigilance at the present time was appreciated, and that no need for the new Court was felt.

To have decided there was a need for such would have been to draw a breach between the Turks and Christians, and wrongfully, as the life and property of the latter seems safe enough in the city at the present time.

In a trial where the Turks were involved they were convicted on the simple testimony of Christians, which is a look in the right direction.

The military force this way is small, but quite large enough if the Government can't keep them better. Poor poverty-stricken creatures are the soldiers; hence, not a little oppressive foraging in villages here and there, and clamouring for bakhshishes.

The order went out some time since to turn back all that turned towards Russia without a teskéré.

From personal observation in the late tour I did not see any turned back, only so far as for the impoverished zaptié to get his bakhshish, larger or smaller, as the case might be.

No serious cases to report from the villages, though petty oppressions occur here and there.

Times very bad here.

Such stagnation in business and very high prices gives a serious look again for this winter.

All Armenians in Bayazid, as a helper of ours who was there not long since says, come back from Russia, but are in great poverty.

(Signed) R. M. COLE.

No. 398.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 155. Political.) *Trebizond, November 7, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the last field battery brought here from Batoum has been lately dispatched to Erzinghian in charge of a company of soldiers, who, together with artillery horses, have been sent here for the purpose.

The position guns, and the large mortars, which had been lying until now on the wharf, have been dragged to the lighthouse battery, where it is intended to mount a few of them.

One battalion of the 4th Army Corps has arrived here some time ago, and was

sent to garrison Rizeh; another battalion which is expected shortly is to be quartered at Koppa.

About three weeks since 101 prisoners were conveyed here from Tiflis viâ Batoum, and on the 5th the Austrian Lloyds', and an English steamer, the "Imbro," coming from Constantinople, landed 3,800 prisoners belonging to this and the neighbouring provinces.

These prisoners, as well as those arrived direct from Russia, are sent to their homes if they belong to the classes of the Redifs and Mustahfiz, but are incorporated again in their respective battalions if they are Nizams (regulars).

About 1,000 of the latter departed yesterday, with arms and baggage, to join the 4th Army Corps.

Within the last few days three battalions, not numbering together more than 600 men, arrived from Erzinghian, and have been embarked on the 6th instant on board the "Imbro," for Constantinople. Five other battalions, which are shortly expected here from Erzinghian, are likewise to be forwarded to the capital.

The corvette "Libuan" arrived here yesterday with two exiles, connected with the Tsiraghan Palace conspiration. The others, about seventy in number, who had been embarked on board the same corvette, were landed on different points on the coast. The "Libuan" is about to return to Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 399.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 156. Political.) *Trebizond, November* 7, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I have telegraphed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople that "the Turkish Commissioners for the delimitation of the new Russian frontier departed to-day for Batoum."

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 400.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 1010.) *Therapia, November* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

SULTAN and Osman Pasha inform me that Russians have advanced during the last three days into neutral zone beyond Media and Visa, and have occupied Hienoli with two regiments of cavalry and one battery of artillery.

Sultan expressed serious apprehension that Russians desire to provoke conflict or find pretexts for gradually approaching Tchataldja lines. His Majesty observed that he was doing all in his power to execute in every particular the Treaty of Berlin, and requested me to ask Her Majesty's Government if, in the event of Russia renewing war without sufficient cause, he might expect any timely material assistance from England.

He urgently desires an answer to this question in order that he may know what measures to take, as the fate of his Empire may depend upon them.

I told his Majesty that I had no reason to believe, after the assurances given by the Emperor, that Russia intended to attack Turkey; and I urgently advised that, while being prepared to meet such an attack, if made, he should most carefully avoid giving any provocation or pretext for one. This, His Majesty said, it was his firm intention to do. Language of Russian Ambassador has been somewhat threatening of late.

No. 401.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 1011.) *Therapia, November* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER informed me yesterday that Turkish Commissioners at Philippopolis had not submitted the Organic Law of Crete to Commission, as British and Austrian Commissioners insisted upon right of discussing and approving Articles. At my urgent request he sent orders at once that it should be submitted, but it will be sent to Crete to be promulgated by new Governor-General on his arrival.

Mr. Sandwith states that it is most desirable that no time should be lost in putting it into execution, and it would be most unfortunate if an agreement acceptable to all parties, and arrived at with very great difficulty, should be interfered with by a Commission that can have no knowledge of wants and condition of the island.

No. 402.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 1012.) *Therapia, November* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

GRAND VIZIER informs me that Count Zichy expressed himself satisfied with the answer proposed to be given by the Porte to the two telegrams from Count Andrassy referred to in my telegram No. 995. I have seen draft of answer prepared by Council of Ministers which accepts Austrian proposal about Novi-Bazar, and agrees to renew hereafter negotiation as to Bosnia, on bases of recognition of Sultan's sovereign rights, and of temporary character of occupation.

No. 403.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 1013.) *Therapia, November* 19, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your telegram of the 16th instant, I sent Captain Murray to watch lines of Bulair, and Colonel Synge to Macedonia.

No. 404.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 19, 1878.

MAJOR WILSON informs me that Servian Commissioner has now accepted, without reserve, new boundary, and that Commission has furnished work for this year.

No. 405.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 19.)

(No. 60.) *Philippopolis, November* 18, 1878.
(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE, on authority that generally proves correct, the two following pieces of information:—

First, that a Colonel Schopeleff with Bulgarian Archbishop is inciting Bulgarians to attack Turks, evidently to force these to leave the country. Second, that it is intended to send further deputations to the Commission, but this time with arms, not to attack us, but to show that it is intended to oppose our project, when presented, by

force of arms. Have you any instruction on this? Can you tell me whether, and at what date, Russian Government informed Her Majesty's Government that Governors of occupied provinces would listen to representations made by Her Majesty's Consuls as to cruelties perpetrated on Turks?

No. 406.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 18, 1878.*

LETTER from Hass-keui relates murder of eighteen Turkish refugees returning from Rhodope under safe conduct from authorities, to whom they had made submission while on their way to the village of Daridere. Murders of Turks are of daily occurrence in that district. Greeks are also subjected to every species of persecution. It would be well if all these acts were made public in the London newspapers. Troops coming from Yeni-Zaghra have been sent within last few days to Adrianople.

No. 407.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 19, 1878.*

I HEAR that General Todleben, who was here yesterday, spoke very strongly both to the Russian authorities and the Bulgarians, insisting on the terms of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 408.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 19.)

(No. 271.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 19, 1878.*

COUNT ZICHY has telegraphed that the Porte is ready to agree to an arrangement for mixed garrisons in Novi-Bazar district, but only on condition of there being a clause recognizing the authority of the Sultan in Bosnia and the Herzegovina, and stating that their occupation is provisional.

Count Andrassy has answered that such a clause is inadmissible.

No. 409.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 19, 1878, 1·40 P.M.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF will be here in two or three days I hope, and I will speak strongly to him about the outrages on Mussulmans.

Meanwhile you are authorized to make any representations on behalf of Her Majesty's Government which appear to you calculated to prevent the cruelties referred to.

No. 410.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 19, 1878, 2 P.M.*

WE propose to intimate to French Government that we consider some assurance of exemption from Greek disturbance should be the condition of a rectification.

(Secret.)

M. Waddington, when I saw him, showed himself not unfavourable to the idea of a joint guarantee on the part of England and France that if Turkey gives a satisfactory frontier she shall not be molested by Greece; but I am not yet in a condition to give any pledge on this point.

No. 411.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 109.) [B.B.]
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 19, 1878.*

HER Majesty's Government have learned with concern from your telegram of the 17th instant that the ill-treatment of the Mussulman population by the Bulgarians still continues in Eastern Roumelia, unrepressed, to all appearance, by the Russian authorities.

Count Schouvaloff is expected in England within the next few days, and I will take an early opportunity of speaking strongly to him on the subject.

In the meanwhile, you are authorized, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, to make or to join in any representations which may seem to you to be calculated to prevent the recurrence of the cruelties complained of.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 412.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1429. Secret.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 19, 1878.*

IT is the intention of Her Majesty's Government to intimate to that of France their opinion that any rectification of the Greek frontier should be accompanied by an assurance to the Porte in some form that Turkey shall in future be exempt from aggression on the part of Greece, and from internal disturbances caused or promoted by Greek agency.

I may inform your Excellency confidentially that when I spoke to M. Waddington on the subject he seemed not unfavourable to the idea of a joint guarantee by England and France assuring Turkey against molestation on the part of Greece, provided that a satisfactory frontier is conceded to the latter country. I am not, however, as yet in a position to give any pledge in regard to this matter, and I therefore only mention the above for your own information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 413.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 45. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, November 15, 1878.*

WITH reference to the dispatch of artillery to the Caucasus, reported in my despatch No. 42, Political, of the 26th October, I have the honour to report that the steamer "Vorobey," with 330 tons of artillery material, was lost on the voyage to Poti.

Troops are still being sent to Bourgas.

Russian officers arrived from Bulgaria say that Plevna is being strongly fortified.

The following staff of Austrian officers arrived here to-day *en route* for Persia:—

1 Lieutenant-General, 1 Colonel, 1 Major, 4 Captains, 3 Lieutenants, 2 Sub-Lieutenants, and 1 Paymaster.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

No. 414.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 923. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 19, 1878.

YESTERDAY, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 753, Confidential, of the 13th instant, I conveyed to M. Waddington verbally your Lordship's thanks for the communication he had made to you through me of the substance of conversations which he had had with Prince Orloff, the Russian Ambassador here, on the subject of Russian proceedings in Eastern Roumelia, and of the importance of a punctual execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I added that the judicious language used by his Excellency to Prince Orloff had given great satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government.

After acknowledging in suitable terms these messages from your Lordship, M. Waddington spoke of Count Schouvaloff. He said that the Paris newspapers announced the arrival of the Count at this place—perhaps erroneously. Count Schouvaloff had sent him word from Vienna that he should come to see him here, but he had understood that the Count intended to go first to Berlin and Baden. M. Waddington believed that Count Schouvaloff was sincerely desirous of promoting peace, and he was very anxious to hear what instructions he had brought from Livadia.

M. Waddington said that he was also waiting with some impatience for the return of Prince Orloff, who had gone to Baden to see Prince Gortschakow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

P.S.—M. Waddington has let me know this afternoon that Count Schouvaloff has arrived in Paris, and has just been to see him.

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No. 415.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 925.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 19, 1878.

REFERRING to the conversation of which I had the honour to make a report to your Lordship, in my despatch No 904 of the 12th instant, M. Waddington told me yesterday that a few days before Safvet Pasha had called upon M. Fournier, the French Ambassador at Constantinople, and had stated to him officially that the Porte had determined to enter into direct negotiation with the Greek Government on the subject of a rectification of the frontier. M. Fournier, however, reported that no steps had yet been taken to give practical effect to this determination, and that, in the meantime Prince Labanoff, the Russian Ambassador, was pressing him to proceed at once to present a formal note to the Porte, calling upon it to carry into execution the recommendations of the Congress of Berlin with regard to Greece.

M. Waddington went on to say that nothing could be farther from his wish than to bear hardly on the Porte, and that he had instructed M. Fournier by telegraph to hold his hand, as regarded the note, for a few days. He had, however, he told me, sent at the same time orders to M. Fournier to go immediately to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs and urge him to appoint at once Commissioners to treat with Greece.

M. Waddington proceeded to observe that the Porte seemed to be running the risk of losing the advantage which it might derive from acting spontaneously in this matter. If it did not at once put into execution its determination to begin the negotiations, the French Government must address to it a formal summons to do so—if only from regard for the Powers who had all, more or less, agreed to the proposal of the French Government that an identic note should be addressed to Turkey. M. Waddington must take measures to give effect to that proposal, if the Porte persisted in its dilatoriness.

M. Waddington concluded by begging me to ask your Lordship, in his name, to

use all your influence to induce the Porte to act in time; or, in other words, to appoint the Commissioners forthwith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 416.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 926. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 19, 1878.

M. WADDINGTON told me yesterday that he was informed that, after having conferred upon its Representative at Bucharest the rank of Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, the Italian Government had now instructed him to withhold the presentation of the letters accrediting him in that capacity.

M. Waddington went on to say that, on reflection, he had become confirmed in the opinion that it would be extremely difficult for the French Government to recognize formally the independence of Roumania until, at least, there had been a distinct commencement of the execution of the condition respecting religious equality laid down by the Treaty of Berlin. In short, he still thought that the recognition must be deferred until the Constituent Assembly had voted the first reading of a Bill establishing religious equality.

M. Waddington went on to say that he found that the German Government were very stiff in the matter, and that he imagined that Prince Bismarck must have given some pledge respecting it to M. de Bleichröd, or some other influential member of the Jewish community at Berlin.

M. Waddington proceeded to observe that strong representations had been made to himself by the family of Rothschild at Paris; and, moreover, that the question had been taken up by the Liberal party in France, and that the Government would be involved in difficulties with its own supporters if it showed any symptom of relaxing its endeavours to enforce the establishment of religious equality in Roumania.

M. Waddington said that the antipathy between the Roumanians and the Russians had become very strong, while the Russian demands respecting the Dobrudscha were wholly incompatible with Roumanian interests and Roumanian independence, and consequently he could not think there was much reason to fear that the Roumanian Government would throw itself into the arms of Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 417.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 20.)

(No. 927.)
My Lord, *Paris, November* 19, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 913 of the 15th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Waddington asked me yesterday whether Her Majesty's Government had considered the question of the place at which their Representative in Montenegro should actually reside.

M. Waddington understood that Russia and Austria had accredited Ministers Resident to the Prince of Montenegro, and had determined that these Ministers should reside at Cettigné or, possibly, at Antivari.

The interests, however, of France and England were, M. Waddington went on to say, much smaller than those of Austria and Russia in Montenegro. Perhaps it might not be necessary to impose upon the French and English Representatives the hardships of an actual residence within the Principality. He had thought that the French Chargé d'Affaires might perhaps be permitted to live generally at Ragusa, going of course to Cettigné, in the first instance, to present his credentials, and afterwards, from time to time, to transact business.

I asked M. Waddington whether the Chargé d'Affaires might not give offence by declining to live in the Principality, and whether, by his absence, his influence

might not be impaired, particularly as compared with that of the Austrian and Russian Ministers who were, it appeared, to be constantly resident at their post.

M. Waddington answered that he did not know that when the frontier was once settled, in such a way as not to take in the Albanian Roman Catholics, France would have any great interest in Montenegrin affairs.

M. Waddington told me that the French Chargé d'Affaires would probably have a purely diplomatic character, and not be also Consul-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 418.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 19, 1878.*

FOLLOWING information received this afternoon from Her Majesty's Commissioner:—

"Peasants of some villages in lately-occupied districts have burnt their houses and retired before Turkish troops to Servian territory. Shots have been fired, but no one has been killed. He goes to-morrow to frontier with French Commissioner."

No. 419.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 20, 1878.*

I HAVE not seen Count Schouvaloff myself, but the French Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that he brings no specific proposals whatever; that he expresses confidence that the Afghanistan question will not produce any complications between England and Russia; that he declares the Emperor to be quite resolved to execute the Treaty of Berlin, and to see only two difficulties, viz., the Montenegrin question, and the necessity of providing for the safety of the Christians in Roumelia on the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

French Minister for Foreign Affairs thinks it possible that the Count may have taken some proposals to Pesth, and that he has now dropped them in consequence of the reception they met with there.

He told the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that he was going on to London on Friday or Saturday next.

No. 420.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.

(No. 1014.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 20, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul at Philippopolis, dated yesterday:—

"General Todleben arrived the day before yesterday, and returns to Adrianople this evening. He strongly advised the Bulgarians to submit to the decisions of the Congress, and told them Russia would not countenance their resistance; and I learn that he reprimanded the Russian authorities for countenancing the Bulgarian agitation, which was contrary to the Emperor's wishes. His words have produced a great impression, and have damped the hopes of the Bulgarian agitators, who begin to fear that their plans will come to nothing."

No. 421.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 20.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November 20, 1878.*

RUSSIAN Minister at Bucharest has answered Roumanian note announcing the intention to occupy the Dobrudscha, and asking for names of the Russian Commissioners for the purpose.

He says he has referred the matter to his Court, but observes that his Government expects still some arrangement with reference to the passage of troops there. Roumania considers [this?] inadmissible.

No. 422.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 20, 1878, 4·40 P.M.*

PLEASE facilitate communication of Cretan law to Eastern Roumelian Commission, and vote against any suggestion of alteration except what you suggest about non-Mussulmans.

No. 423.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 20, 1878, 7·45 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 60 of the 18th instant, M. Giers stated, in a note to Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh, dated the 24th August last, that, "although Russian Government would not allow a Consular Commission to examine the complaints of the Mussulman population, the foreign Consuls in Bulgaria are perfectly free to assist the Russian authorities in the work of pacifying the country by abstaining from collecting and accrediting questionable evidence, and by confining themselves to indicating such authenticated facts as come to their knowledge; and that they may feel assured that in such circumstances well-founded grievances are redressed."

We have nothing else from Russian Government as to representations from Her Majesty's Consuls.

You had better refuse to receive armed deputations.

Subject to your judgment, I should be disposed to refuse large deputations altogether, insisting that any communications should be sent in writing or through two or three selected representatives.

No. 424.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 121.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 20, 1878.*

YOUR telegram No. 60 of the 18th instant has been received, in which you inquire whether, and at what date, Her Majesty's Government were informed by that of Russia that the representations of Her Majesty's Consuls respecting cruelties perpetrated on Turks would be attended to by the Governors of the provinces in Russian occupation.

A telegram has been sent to you in reply, explaining that Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at St. Petersburgh received a note, dated the 24th August last, from the Russian Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, in which it was stated that, although the Imperial Government would not permit a Consular Commission to examine the complaints made by the Mussulman population, foreign Consuls in Bulgaria are perfectly at liberty to render assistance to the Russian authorities with a view to pacifying the country by refraining from amassing and giving credence to doubtful testimony, and by merely drawing attention to any well authenticated facts which

come under their notice. The note also stated that, in such cases, they might be sure that well-founded complaints would meet with redress.

This is all the information that Her Majesty's Government have received from the Russian Government relative to representations made by Her Majesty's Consuls.

In the same telegram you were informed that, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it would be best to decline to receive armed deputations; indeed, they would be disposed to recommend that you should refuse large deputations altogether; but as regards this you must exercise your own judgment; you might insist on any communications being made in writing, or else sent through two or three representatives selected for the purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 425.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 626. Confidential.)
Berlin, November 17, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Turkish Ambassador has been instructed by his Government to consult the German Government in regard to the Treaty proposed to the Porte by the Russian Government, and the question has been submitted by M. de Bülow to Prince Bismarck, who is in the country.

The Treaty is said to be composed of the XIIIth, XIXth, and XXVth Articles of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano, and of a new Article, the purport of which is to confirm the Treaty of Berlin.

No answer has yet been returned by the Chancellor, or by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the Turkish Ambassador; but my impression is, that the German Government will hold a reconfirmation of the Treaty of Berlin to be superfluous.

To the other three Articles of the Treaty of San Stefano the German Government will raise no objections, I think.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 426.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(No. 1016.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 21, 1878.*

I HAVE received following telegram from Consul at Erzeroum, dated 20th:—

"Governor informed me here Russians have been reinforced by 20,000 men. Russian Consul left suddenly Tuesday, but his family remain here."

No. 427.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November 21, 1878.*

RUSSIANS' intention appears to be to raise fresh difficulties on the subject of the Dobrudscha.

This Government, greatly alarmed by reported march of a new Russian force through the Principality, has asked me to telegraph to your Lordship following question:—"Does Her Majesty's Government recommend Roumania to occupy 'tracé' marked out by the Delimitation Commission?" My private opinion is that the Commission has not terminated till final Protocol has been signed, but that Russian Government has no right to oppose occupation from the day it has got Bessarabia.

No. 428.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 21, 1878.*

FOLLOWING telegram received last night from Her Majesty's Commissioner:—

"Have been to frontier. Matters are better now; only one village burnt; 500 or 600 peasants have withdrawn through fear of Albanians, not of Turks. Servian troops have retired behind new frontier."

No. 429.

Mr. R. Thomson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(Telegraphic.)
(Secret and Confidential.) *Tehran, November 21, 1878.*

THE Turkish Ambassador had an audience of the Shah on the 9th. He then informed me that he had urged His Majesty to avoid a close alliance with Russia, and to attach himself to England, and stated that he considered that his representations had produced a favourable effect.

I learn, however, from secret and reliable source, that he telegraphed, in cypher, to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, on the 11th, as follows:—

"The Shah said to me that the proposal made by England, and her influence over Asia Minor, would be very injurious to the two Mahommedan States, and that he, as Sovereign of a Mussulman Power, could not tolerate the influence of England being used to such an extent; that it would do much harm to both Mahommedan nations, and he therefore desired me to communicate to my august Sovereign the friendly opinion he had expressed. I observed to His Majesty that 'Il n'y aurait aucun mal.'"

The above telegram was submitted by the Turkish Ambassador to the Persian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and approved by him, before being dispatched to Constantinople.

(Communicated confidentially to Viceroy.)

No. 430.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 21.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, November 21, 1878.*

I HAVE returned to Constantinople. Hope to complete the Dobrudscha Boundary, and wind up the affairs of the Commission in a fortnight. Please instruct me as to disposal of staff for the winter. See my [17?] of twenty-five.

No. 431.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 21, 1878, 2:10 P.M.*

I HAVE received your telegram of 18th, announcing refusal of Roumanian Government to enter into fresh Convention with Russia. This result is, no doubt, due in great measure to your exertions, and Her Majesty's Government are much gratified at their success.

No. 432.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1432.)

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency's despatch No. 1366 of the 4th instant has been received and laid before the Queen.

The advice you have given to Safvet Pasha that the Sultan's Firman, confirming the amended Organic Law for Crete, should be submitted to the International Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, and the steps you have taken to expedite a final settlement of this question, meet with the entire approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 433.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1433.)

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to request that you will state to Mr. Vice-Consul Biliotti, with reference to his despatch to this Department No. 151 of the 30th ultimo, that I approve the judicious advice which, as reported in his despatch to your Excellency No 172, he has addressed to Yussuf Pasha, with regard to the miscarriage of justice in the local Courts of the Province of Trebizond, and to the measures calculated to remedy the abuses to which he has called his Excellency's attention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 434.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1435.)

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 1367 of the 4th instant, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve your recommendation to the Grand Vizier that the Porte should concede to the Sphakians in Crete the continuance of the special privileges formerly enjoyed by them, and for the renewal of which they have now expressed a wish.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 435.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1436.)

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

Sir,

I REQUEST that your Excellency will have the goodness to state to Captain Murray that I have read with much interest the information contained in his Report, a copy of which was inclosed with your Excellency's despatch No. 1383 of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 436.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1437.)

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

Sir,

SINCE the receipt of your Excellency's telegram of the 21st ultimo, I have been in communication with Sir Arnold Kemball with reference to the inquiry addressed to you by the Grand Vizier as to the line of frontier alluded to in the LXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, according to which "the Sublime Porte cedes to Persia the town and territory of Khotour, as fixed by the Mixed Anglo-Russian Commission for the delimitation of the frontiers of Turkey and Persia."

I now transmit, for your Excellency's information, and for convenience of reference, the accompanying printed correspondence upon this subject, as noted in the margin.*

As I am informed by your Excellency, in a further telegram of the 11th instant, that the Porte is about to surrender the town of Khotour at once to Persia, it may be hoped that this question may shortly be settled to the satisfaction of both parties.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 437.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 114.) [B. B.]

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 94 of the 5th instant, inclosing copy of the scheme drawn up by Baron Kallay to serve as a basis for the further labours of the Commission in elaborating the Constitution of Eastern Roumelia.

The scheme appears to afford a very clear and comprehensive sketch of the framework of such a Constitution as the Commission are desired to prepare, and of the principles by which they should be guided in the task.

I am glad to learn that it has been adopted by the Commission with a trifling verbal alteration.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 438.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 115. Confidential.)

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

Sir,

ACTING upon the suggestion contained in your telegram of the 7th instant, I have entered into confidential communication with the Anglo-Jewish Association, with a view to ascertain whether the "Alliance Israélite" in England, and its branches abroad, or any other similar society, might consider it advisable to take steps for addressing a formal application to the Russian Government that they would allow the Jewish emigrants from Eastern Roumelia and the refugees in the province itself to return to their homes, their safety and the restoration of their property being guaranteed by the Russian authorities.

I shall not fail to make you acquainted with the result of my communication with the Association.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

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* Memorandum by Mr. Hertslet, January 10, 1873; Memorandum by Sir A. Kemball, April 2; ditto, April 2; Mr. Layard, No. 369, March 19, 1875; Article LX of Treaty of Berlin; Sir A. H. Layard (Telegraphic), No. 936, October 21; Memorandum by Sir E. Hertslet, October 23; Sir A. H. Layard, No. 1269, October 17; to Sir A. Kemball, October 28; Sir A. H. Layard, No. 1290, October 22; Sir A. Kemball, October 30; to Sir A. Kemball, November 4; Sir A. Kemball, November 6, 1878.

No. 439.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 116.) [B.B.]

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE to convey to you my approval of the answer you gave to the Bulgarians from whom you received the petition of which a copy and translation accompanied your despatch No. 90 of the 4th November last.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 440.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 778.)

Foreign Office, November 21, 1878.

My Lord,

YOUR Excellency has already received from me a copy of the Circular which has been communicated by the French Government to the four Powers who reserved to themselves the right to mediate under the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

Her Majesty's Government have forborne hitherto to send a reply to the proposal made in that despatch by M. Waddington, as they had reason for doubting whether the conditions had actually arisen under which the Article referred to became applicable. M. Waddington assumes that the Porte has definitively refused to negotiate with Greece in reference to the rectification recommended in the Congress. The information which had reached Her Majesty's Government did not lead them to that conclusion. The Porte had indeed pointed out in its Circular of August that no sufficient provision had been made for securing it against future molestation on the part of the Greeks, which was the only advantage likely to accrue to Turkey from the proposed rectification. It was premature, however, to assume that its anxiety to be satisfied upon this point implied a definitive refusal to entertain the suggestion of the six Powers. If the information which reaches Her Majesty's Government is correct, the Ottoman Ministers have constantly kept this question in view, and there is some reason for expecting that they will themselves take the initiative in opening negotiations with Greece upon the point. If that should be the case, M. Waddington will probably agree with Her Majesty's Government that the moment for facilitating negotiation by offering the mediation of the Powers has not yet arrived. Whenever it does arrive, the French Government may be assured that England will cordially concur with the other Powers who were parties to the resolution of the 13th Protocol, in fulfilling the obligations which by accepting it they have incurred.

For the sake of the result which the Powers in common have at heart, it is perhaps a matter of congratulation that the necessity of acting under Article XXIV has not yet arisen. The success of that step, whenever it shall be taken, must largely depend on the selection of an opportune moment for interference. The use of coercive measures was explicitly excluded in the discussion in Congress which followed the proposal of the resolution of M. Waddington and Count Corti. The Powers relied wholly upon their ability to persuade the Sultan that the best interests of his Empire will be consulted by the adoption of their advice. Should they ever be compelled to make a formal tender of their mediation, they will evidently be able to address him with more authority, if they can point to the entire fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin by all the Powers in all points as an accomplished fact, and to the benefit which his Empire will consequently have derived from its provisions.

As it is at present probable that the negotiations will not require to be facilitated by the mediation provided in the Treaty for that purpose, it is perhaps premature to discuss the precise form which that mediation should take. Probably M. Waddington himself would desire to express his views in greater detail, when placing them before the Powers in the shape of a definite plan of action. The brief summary, however, which he gives of his mode of proceeding makes it desirable that I should address to you one or two observations on that point.

In the view of Her Majesty's Government the meaning of the word mediation would not be satisfied by addressing a demand to one only of the Powers between whom the mediation is to take place. Nor is this criticism only a question of form.

It is of the essence of mediation that it should be impartial. Both the disputants must make concessions before the friendly understanding at which the six Powers aim can be brought about; and therefore, an impartial mediator, in undertaking his office, has demands to address to both. If Turkey must concede territory, Greece must equally abandon claims. The only motive which Turkey can have for giving up territory which she actually occupies is in order to see an end put to the agitations which trouble her populations, and, by menacing her frontier constitute a permanent drain upon her defensive resources. The reciprocal character of the proposed arrangement is fully recognized in the discussion of the thirteenth sitting of Congress, to which Article XXIV refers, for the purpose of explaining the policy of the stipulated mediation; and it is set forth nowhere more clearly than in the speech of the First Plenipotentiary of France:—

"Le réglement de ces difficultés permanentes est, en effet, pour la Turquie, une condition de sécurité et de prospérité intérieure: car aussi longtemps que dureront ces troubles le développement de ses ressources se trouvera paralysé. En ce qui concerne la Grèce l'objet du Congrès n'est pas, sans doute, de donner satisfaction aux aspirations excessives de certaines organes de l'opinion Hellénique; mais M. Waddington pense qu'on ferait une œuvre équitable et politique en lui adjoignant des populations qui seraient une force pour elle, et qui ne sont qu'une cause de faiblesse pour la Turquie. . . .

"Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France croit donc servir également les intérêts des deux pays en proposant au Congrès d'indiquer, d'une manière générale, et sans porter atteinte à la souveraineté de la Porte, les limites qu'il voudrait voir assignées à la Grèce. L'autorité de la haute assemblée Européenne donnerait aux deux Gouvernements Ottoman et Grec la force morale nécessaire, au premier pour consentir à des concessions opportunes, au second, pour résister à des revendications exagérées. Mais, pour atteindre ce but, son Excellence pense qu'il faut, d'une part, ne point solliciter de la Porte des sacrifices impossibles, de l'autre, faire appel à la modération de la Grèce. Le Premier Plénipotentiaire de France a donc regardé comme utile de tracer, comme base aux négociations, une ligne générale montrant, à la fois, à la Turquie la mesure des intentions de l'Europe, et à la Grèce les limites qu'elle ne doit point dépasser. Tel est l'objet de la résolution suivante qu'il a l'honneur de soumettre, d'accord avec le Premier Plénipotentiaire d'Italie, aux délibérations du Congrès."

The First Plenipotentiary of Italy, on his part, expressed himself in similar language:—

"Il faudrait faire disparaître dans les limites du possible, les causes de futurs conflits. . . . . Ce résultat doit intéresser la Turquie encore plus que les autres Puissances."

I have drawn your Excellency's attention at length to these passages, because the speeches of the two Plenipotentiaries who introduced the resolution, which ultimately became the XXIVth Article of the Treaty, were accepted without disapproval by the other Powers joining in the resolution, and may be taken as an authoritative exposition of the meaning of the Article.

Her Majesty's Government, in expressing their readiness to take part in the stipulated mediation, as soon as it shall become necessary for the purpose of facilitating the negotiations, assume that it will be directed to the attainment of the twofold object contemplated in the speeches I have quoted. On the one hand, Turkey will be asked to make certain territorial concessions, and a general line will be suggested as a basis for negotiations. On the other hand, Greece will be invited in return to give the Porte security in the future against the claims which have often threatened the peaceable relations of the two Powers in the past.

It is the more necessary not to lose sight of the part which Greece is to take in this mutual act of pacification, because the Greek Government, in demanding from the Porte a compliance with the suggestion of the Powers, have made no corresponding offer on their own side.

The speech made by M. Delyanni in the Congress puts forward those "revendications exagérées" to which M. Waddington in his speech alludes; and his Circular of the 10th September gives no assurance that those pretensions have been renounced. In the interests of Greece herself, and of the pacification desired by the Powers, no effort should be spared to dissipate the apprehensions of the Porte in this respect. If no assurance is given to Turkey that she will enjoy, as far as Greece is concerned, the future tranquillity which is to be the consideration of the proposed cession, the Powers will be asking her to make an unrequited sacrifice; and as the employ-

ment of force is not in contemplation, they will be foregoing the only argument which is likely to influence the advisers of the Sultan.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 441.

Consul-General Stanley to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 42. Political.)
My Lord, *Odessa, October 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that troops are being continually sent by sea to Burgas, and it is reported the 15th and 36th Divisions, now here, will be sent by land to Bulgaria.

They may be only reliefs in the ordinary course, but such is not the opinion here.

Artillery has also been sent to the Caucasus. This would appear to be a change from the original intention, as shortly after the conclusion of the war a considerable quantity of cannon were brought back, and it is exactly similar cannon which has been recently sent there.

The so-called voluntary subscription having procured four large steamers, the "Taxonia," "Holsatia," "Hammonia," and "Thuringia," now respectively the "Nijni-Novgorod," "Russia," "Moskva," and "Petersburgh," Russia's means of transport is much increased, though the "Nijni-Novgorod" requires extensive repairs, which will take several months before she can be of any use.

It is decided to send the two "Popoffkas" to Sevastopol for the winter, and extra hands are being placed on the larger one, the "Admiral Popoff," fitting the hydraulic gun-carriages. This work is undertaken by Messrs. Easton and Anderson.

The officers had been told by the Commander-in-chief of the Black Sea fleet that they would winter at Nicolaief, but a telegram very recently came ordering them to Sevastopol.

Sevastopol never freezes, whereas Nicolaief is closed every winter, and Odessa also is frequently closed, and from the size of the bay is indefensible against a serious attack, but Sevastopol can be rendered almost impregnable.

The torpedoes have all been taken up, and the guns removed from all the batteries excepting those immediately commanding this port. The other guns could doubtless be easily replaced, though I hear it stated that, in case of war with a first-class naval Power, they would all be dismantled, so as not to invite attack.

A submarine torpedo-boat, the invention of M. Djevetzky, has been making trials lately in this harbour, and I am endeavouring to procure a description of it. The inventor professes to be able to remain under water for twenty-four hours.

He has several times to my knowledge remained under for three hours. He guides himself by compass, and works a sort of double fan screw with his feet.

He can rise and sink at will. I have seen him come up touching a small boat a quarter of a mile from where he was placed in the water, but did not see him go in, so know not how long he was doing the distance.

I understand he can attach a torpedo to a vessel and, paying out a wire, explode it when at a safe distance by a battery which he carries.

The destruction of a ship at anchor off an enemy's coast would appear to be practicable by it.

When he rises to the surface the thing looks like a large lantern.

I venture to remark, with all deference, that of all points in European Russia whence to observe Russia's movements towards Central Asia and beyond, Orenburg appears to offer the greatest facilities.

I believe this could be done without attracting notice by the choice of a proper agent, and at small cost.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. E. STANLEY.

P.S.—Since the above was written the smaller "Popoffka" has gone to Sevastopol. They will be placed out of commission there and the men employed on other works there, so as to be able to rejoin without delay.

G. E. S.

No. 442.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 5. Political.)
My Lord, *Sophia, November 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I arrived at this town, the provisional capital of the Principality of Bulgaria under Russian administration, yesterday afternoon. The Governor-General, Prince Dondoukoff, at present absent at Rustchuk, on private affairs, is expected here early next week.

None of the Delegates *ad hoc* have arrived as yet; but the French and Austrian, as also the Turkish Commissioner, Pertev Effendi, will soon be here. Of the Italian and German Representatives I have no certain news as yet.

There is much difficulty in procuring lodging of any kind, nearly half the town having been destroyed during the Russian occupation. Hence I have been compelled to accept for the present the hospitality offered by the Austrian resident Consul.

The disposition of the inhabitants, now almost exclusively Bulgarian, is by no means friendly either towards the Delegates in general, or towards the English Representative in particular. This feeling is, however, due, I think, in great measure, to ignorance and to calumnious reports, and will, I trust, give way before long, on better knowledge, to a more amiable state of mind.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 443.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 6. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Sophia, November 4, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that, about a month since, a band of 500 to 600 so-called volunteers, Bulgarians of Macedonia, most of whom had before taken part in the Servian campaign, or had belonged to the now disbanded Bulgarian Legion of the late war, collected at the town of Kustendil, near the South Bulgarian frontier. Here they equipped and organized themselves under the command of one Major Alexandroff, a Russian ex-officer and volunteer in Servia. They then crossed the border at Egri-Palanka, about forty miles south-east by south of Sophia, and entered Macedonia, where they were seconded by the inhabitants of, it is said, from twenty to thirty Bulgarian villages, and reinforced by some local insurgent bands, making up their effective number to, as I am told, somewhat over 2,000 fighting men.

The Mahommedan villagers of the district are also reported to have countenanced the movement; a few Greek or Grecized-Bulgarian villages are said to have joined in too.

The first serious encounter with the Turkish troops thereabouts took place about three weeks ago, at a village called Kresna, near Menlik, on the road to Seres. The regulars were worsted, and over 130 of them taken prisoners. The volunteers offered these prisoners to Russian keeping; but the Russians having refused to accept the charge, contented themselves by sending them off, disarmed, of course, in the direction of East Roumelia.

Next they occupied an insurgent village called Maren-Seale, situated at the entry of the Dervend Pass, in the Strymon or Kara-Soo Valley, and there are said to have repulsed three Turkish battalions which attempted to retake this important position. In a later engagement the volunteers are reported to have been defeated by the Turkish regulars, with a loss of over twenty men.

This insurrectionary movement is positively and officially discountenanced by the Russians, so far as the volunteers from the Bulgarian frontier are concerned; nor is there any authentic proof of Russian assistance given to the insurgents, either in the form of arms or men; nor even, so far as I can learn, valid grounds of suspicion. I am also informed, on the best authority, that strict instructions have been issued to their men by the leaders of the bands, prohibiting slaughter in cold blood and all other acts of deliberate cruelty in regard of the Ottoman troops and the Mahommedan inhabitants of the district generally.

In conclusion, I beg leave respectfully to observe that, although some of the

above details rest on mere hearsay, and may accordingly be in some measure inexact, especially for what regards the precise number, movements, successes, or losses of the insurgents, yet there is no doubt whatever that the rising is an extensive one, that it has with it the sympathies, and, in some degree, the assistance of the Bulgarian people generally, and that it is in itself, and in its probable results, of a serious character.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 444.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 7. Political. Confidential.)
Sophia, November 8, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Imperial Russian Commissary, Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff, having arrived, I called on him by appointment this morning.

During the interview, which was long and confidential, his Excellency stated his views as to the relative position to be occupied by himself and the Delegates *ad hoc* of the co-signatory Powers, according to the VIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, especially in view of the words "assist" and "control" occurring in the second sentence of the same.

These words, taken in conjunction, he considered to denote an obligation on his part to keep the Delegates fully informed of every measure taken or Ordinance issued by the Provisional Government, of whatever nature, also to request the advice and assistance of the said Delegates, wherever the conditions ordained by the Treaty of Berlin might appear in any way endangered.

Having premised that whatever I said at present on this topic could, in the absence of my colleagues, have a merely personal and preliminary, not an absolute or definite value, I answered that, while entirely agreeing in his Excellency's view as to the obligations imposed on the Imperial Russian Commissary, above stated, I considered that obligation to include further—

Attention to be paid, and, where possible, effect given to what representations the Delegates might in course of events find it their duty to make to his Excellency, in the fulfilment of their charge; absolute divergence of opinion, should it occur, to be matter of reference, as in the Treaty.

Secondly, notice to be given to the Delegates, in view of their opinion and advice, in the case of measures of major importance, contemplated by the Provisional Government.

To both of which propositions the Prince expressed his assent; adding that to give effect to the Articles of the Berlin Treaty was the common basis of his action and ours.

His Excellency proposing to enter into further details regarding the relations between the Delegates and himself, I respectfully declined to follow the subject further, as one beyond my competence, till the arrival of my colleagues.

Next, I called his Excellency's attention to the requisite freedom of discussion in what concerns the drawing up of the Organic Law, and the absolute freedom of the subsequent election, assuring him that the attention of Her Majesty's Government would be especially fixed on these points, the more so on account of the existing military occupation, to which his Excellency answered by the friendliest assurances.

The remainder of the interview was chiefly occupied by conversation on the Macedonian disturbances, the Bulgarian "volunteers," and, from its bearings on the south-eastern Bulgarian frontier, the Albanian League. Some expressions used incidentally by his Excellency while discussing this last topic seemed to imply an understanding of special intimacy between Servia and Russia. But on these points I shall have the honour of writing to your Lordship in subsequent despatches.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 445.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 8. Political.) [B.B.]
Sophia, November 9, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to the latest information, the Macedonian insurrection continues to gain ground between Menlik and Seres, a dozen more villages having risen against the Turkish rule. Fresh instances of co-operation on the part of the Mahommedan village population are reported. It is also said that the Ottoman regular troops are concentrating their forces in the neighbourhood of Seres, and that numerous Albanian bands are gathered in the vicinity of Djumaa.

This news I believe to be substantially correct. I have also received further confirmation of pecuniary assistance supplied by the Bulgarian Committees to the insurgents. On the other hand I have positive proof that the Russian authorities in Bulgaria have taken, and are at present taking, serious measures to prevent further communication between this province and the Macedonian insurgents; but to effect this absolutely along a long line of as yet ill-defined mountain frontier is next to impossible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 446.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 215.)
Belgrade, November 6, 1878.

My Lord,

THE whole of the Servian militia is about to be dismissed from active service with the exception of the Schabatz Brigade, which has been ordered to march from its head-quarters on the Drina to the newly-ceded districts to assist the regular troops in guarding the frontiers on that side. This measure is not of such political significance as it seems at first sight, though it certainly looks like a move in the right direction.

On the one hand it will temporarily relieve the strain on the national finances, and on the rural population of certain districts, by partially reducing the number of men under arms, and restoring to their homes and occupations many peasants who have been kept continuously on military duty for the last eleven months. On the other hand it will facilitate the reorganization and re-equipment of that portion of the militia which is the most sadly in want of both one and the other, and cause fresh battalions to take the place of others completely worn out with all kinds of hardships and privations, and more than decimated by disease. At the same time, in case of emergency, the whole of this militia can again be called out for active service in the course of three to four weeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 447.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 220.)
Belgrade, November 13, 1878.

My Lord,

SOME days ago, in the course of conversation, M. Persiany, the Russian Minister here, called my attention to the very unsatisfactory and precarious state of things on the Servo-Bulgarian frontier, where collisions at one or two points had already occurred, though happily unattended with loss of life, owing to the continued occupation by the Servians of large tracts of Bulgarian territory beyond their own frontiers. He therefore expressed the hope that the International Boundary Commission might be induced, for the sake of averting more serious consequences, to proceed at least to the demarcation of a short section of this frontier, where the most danger was to be apprehended, before retiring for the winter from the scene of its labours. I stated, in reply, that I should be happy to assist him in keeping the peace among the border population; but that,

the matter being one which rested entirely with the Commission, all I could undertake to do would be to refer it to Major Wilson, Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner.

At a subsequent interview with M. Ristich the subject again came under discussion, and his Excellency kindly explained to me, with the aid of a map, all the circumstances of the case from the Servian point of view. He fully admitted, with no little satisfaction, that the Servian troops had penetrated far into what was clearly Bulgarian territory, and that at this very moment they still occupied two such important Bulgarian towns as Trn and Brznick. He, however, alleged that they did so in virtue of a tacit agreement with Russia, dating from the time of the armistice, and added that they had no intention of withdrawing their troops from thence until the frontier-line had been determined by the Boundary Commission.

His Excellency then went on to say that of late some disputes of very old standing about the possession of certain arable lands in the neighbourhood of Veliki Izvar had been renewed by the Bulgarians, with the concurrence of the Russian Governor of Widdin, who had behaved in a very arbitrary and unjustifiable manner towards Servia. Things had finally gone so far that, on a recent occasion a body of Bulgarians, under the orders of a Russian officer, had attacked, fired upon, and driven off or disarmed the Servian frontier guards in that locality, after which they set fire to and destroyed the palisade and guard-houses along the Servian frontier. He likewise feared that further collisions might occur, although, through the good offices of the Russian Minister here, tranquillity had again been re-established, and he was therefore very desirous that the Boundary Commission, on its return to Belgrade, should, if possible, examine and mark this short section of the frontier.

As Veliki Izvar is on the old boundary between Servia and the Sandjak of Widdin, and, moreover, as Her Majesty's Commissioner is of opinion that it does not form part of the work assigned to the Commission, I have not taken any further action in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 448.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 223.)
Belgrade, November 16, 1878.

My Lord,

ON being informed by Her Majesty's Commissioner on the 4th instant that he hoped the delimitation of the boundary across the Vranja Valley would be completed by the 13th instant, and that he considered it of importance, owing to the unsettled state of the country, that the withdrawal of the Servian troops behind their new frontier should take place by that date and simultaneously with the advance of the Ottoman forces, I at once put myself in communication with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject.

On the 11th instant M. Ristich officially communicated to me a telegram (copy of which is herewith inclosed) he had addressed that very day to the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, stating, in reply to one he had received from the Porte, that the demarcation of the new boundary at Vranja was not yet finished, but that, should the weather prove favourable, he trusted it would be concluded in about a dozen days, when the Servian troops would be recalled within their own territory.

The next morning (the 12th instant) I informed M. Ristich, in an official note, copy of which is likewise inclosed, that the Commission having finally marked this section of the frontier, the Turkish troops had received orders to hold themselves, from the 13th instant forward, in readiness to occupy the territory which reverted to Turkey, according to the decision of the Commission, and which the Servian troops were consequently bound to evacuate without further delay.

I at the same time took occasion to remind his Excellency that Servia had been acting in open defiance of her Treaty obligations, in not having long ago withdrawn her troops from the territory in question, because, in opposition to the views of Her Majesty's Government, he seems to consider that Servia is justified in the course it has pursued since the matter has not been noticed by the Representatives of the other Signatory Powers at Belgrade.

That very same evening I received from M. Ristich a note (Inclosure No. 3), in which he desired me to make known to the Porte that the Servian troops had received orders to evacuate at once the territory they held beyond that section of the new

boundary-line already marked out by the Commission; but that should the Ottoman troops attempt to advance at other points of the frontier which had not yet been delimited by the Commission, force would, if necessary, be employed to drive them back.

His Excellency added that his Government considered that they were justified by the terms of the Treaty of Berlin in continuing to occupy their present positions (on Turkish ground), until the Commission had come to a decision in regard to the Servian frontier.

In my reply (Inclosure No. 4) I stated that I was at a loss to understand the object of the formal reserves they had thought proper to make in such threatening language with reference to certain other Turkish territories in their possession, about which there clearly could have been no question, since the orders issued by the Porte to its forces were merely to the effect that they were to hold themselves in readiness to occupy the territories evacuated by the Servian troops, in obedience to the decisions of the Commission.

I also expressed my surprise at their having gone out of their way to quote the Treaty of Berlin in justification of their conduct, seeing that they ought to have complied with its provisions in this respect long before the Commission they now appealed to had been called into existence by the Great Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 448.

M. Ristich to Safvet Pasha.

(Télégraphique.)
Belgrade, le 30 Octobre / 11 Novembre, 1878.

J'AI reçu un télégramme de Constantinople en date du 6 Novembre, sans signature, mais parlant au nom de la Sublime Porte de la délimitation au sud de Vranja. Dans le cas où ce télégramme proviendrait de votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de l'informer que la Commission Européenne s'occupe précisément en ce moment de la fixation de la ligne frontière de Vranja, notamment entre les montagnes Poljanica et Tryni Vrh. La plus grande partie du travail de démarcation se trouve aujourd'hui terminée, et on espère que si le temps est favorable il sera entièrement achevé dans une douzaine de jours. La ligne une fois définitivement fixée et connue, ce qui n'est pas encore le cas aujourd'hui, les troupes Serbes se retireront sur la nouvelle frontière.

Inclosure 2 in No. 448.

Mr. Gould to M. Ristich.

M. le Président du Conseil,
Belgrade, le 12 Novembre, 1878.

ME référant à la conversation que nous eûmes hier au sujet de l'évacuation par les troupes Serbes des positions qu'elles occupent encore à l'heure qu'il est sur le territoire Turc en dehors des limites assignées à la Principauté par le Traité de Berlin; et que d'après l'Article XLI du dit Traité elles auraient du évacuer dans le délai de quinze jours à partir de l'échange des ratifications, j'ai l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté la Reine à Constantinople vient de me faire savoir par télégraphe que les troupes Ottomanes ont reçu ordre de se tenir prêtes dès demain, le 13 Novembre, à occuper les territoires d'où, conformément aux décisions prises par la Commission Européenne de Délimitation, les troupes Serbes sont tenues de se retirer sans plus de retard.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) G. F. GOULD.

Inclosure 3 in No. 448.

M. Ristich to Mr. Gould.

M. l'Agent,
Belgrade, le 31 Octobre / 12 Novembre, 1878.

J'AI eu soin de porter à la connaissance du Commandement-en-chef de nos troupes la communication verbale dont vous m'avez honoré le 28 courant et suivant

laquelle le Gouvernement Ottoman désirait, pour des motifs d'ordre intérieur, que ses troupes occupassent les territoires situés en dehors de la nouvelle ligne frontière au fur et à mesure que les nôtres s'en retireraient.

Le contenu de la note que nous m'avez fait l'honneur de m'adresser aujourd'hui a été également communiqué au Commandement de l'armée. Suivant cette note les troupes Ottomanes ont reçu l'ordre de se tenir prêtes dès demain (13 Novembre) à occuper les territoires d'où, conformément aux décisions de la Commission Européenne de Délimitation, les troupes Serbes sont tenues de se retirer sans plus de retard.

Comme la Commission Européenne a achevé la démarcation de la nouvelle frontière au sud de Vranja sur une grande partie de son parcours, le Gouvernement Princier n'éprouve naturellement aucune difficulté à retirer des troupes des territoires situés en dehors des points déjà fixés par la Commission. Les ordres ont déjà été donnés en ce sens. Les troupes Ottomanes pourront donc s'avancer dans cette direction sans rencontrer de notre part aucun obstacle.

Mais il ne peut en être de même des localités où la ligne n'a pas encore été déterminé et d'où, par conséquent, nous ignorons si nos troupes auront à se retirer et à quelle distance. Le Gouvernement Princier croit rester dans les limites du Traité de Berlin en maintenant l'occupation de cette ligne jusqu'à la décision de la Commission Européenne.

En conséquence j'ai l'honneur, M. l'Agent, de vous informer que si les troupes Ottomanes devaient chercher à franchir la ligne occupée par nos troupes dans les contrées que la Commission Européenne n'a pas encore délimitées, elles seront invitées par les nôtres à ne pas passer outre; mais que si, ne tenant pas compte de cette invitation, elles avaient recours à la force pour s'en rendre maître, nos troupes se verraient de leur côté obligées de s'y opposer.

Je vous serais obligé, M. l'Agent, de bien vouloir faire parvenir ce qui précède à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte en réponse à sa décision que vous avez eu la bonté de me transmettre.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) T. RISTICH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 448.

Mr. Gould to M. Ristich.

Belgrade, le 3/15 Novembre, 1878.

M. le Président du Conseil,

AU reçu de la note que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser avant-hier au soir, j'ai sur le champ télégraphié à l'Ambassadeur de la Reine à Constantinople, en le priant de vouloir bien faire parvenir à la connaissance de la Sublime Porte la teneur de cette communication, par laquelle j'ai appris avec satisfaction que les ordres avaient été déjà données pour l'évacuation immédiate par les troupes Serbes de toutes les contrées sises en dehors de la ligne frontière au sud de Vranja, dont le tracé aurait déjà été achevé par la Commission Européenne de Délimitation.

Vu qu'il ne s'agit de la part de la Sublime Porte que de l'occupation par ses troupes des territoires au delà de cette partie des nouvelles frontières de la Principauté qui se trouve déjà délimitivement délimitée par la Commission Européenne, j'avoue, M. le Président du Conseil, que je ne saisis point le but des réserves formelles que votre Excellence s'est cru en devoir de formuler dans des termes si menaçants au sujet de certains autres territoires Turcs, dont, tant que je sache, il n'est nullement question pour le moment. Je suis encore plus surpris de voir que le Gouvernement Princier cherche si mal-à-propos à justifier sa conduite vis-à-vis des Puissances signataires, en alléguant qu'il croit rester dans les limites du Traité de Berlin en maintenant cette occupation jusqu'à la décision de la Commission Européenne.

Evidemment vous oubliez, M. le Président du Conseil, que dans le dit Traité il n'a point été question d'une Commission Européenne pour la délimitation des nouvelles frontières de la Serbie, qui, en effet, n'a été créée que vers le mois de Septembre, mais uniquement de l'évacuation par les troupes Serbes du territoire, non compris dans les limites assignées à la Principauté d'après l'Article XXXVI, dans le délai de quinze jours à partir de l'échange des ratifications, soit dans la première moitié d'Août.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) G. F. GOULD.

No. 449.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 224. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, November 16, 1878.*

REFERRING to my despatch No. 212 of the 31st ultimo, marked Secret and Confidential, on the subject of Russian political intrigues in Servia, I regret to say that so far I have not been able to obtain reliable information as to their precise object, although the fact of their existence is becoming more and more evident. The Minister of Public Worship, who was educated in Russia, is now on his way back from Moscow, where he can only have made a very short stay. It is generally believed that he was intrusted with some secret mission, in spite of its having been given out that he had proceeded thither solely in search of a Russian wife; but this seems scarcely credible, as he is a widower advanced in years, with no private fortune, and a numerous family.

Major Wilson, Her Majesty's Boundary Commissioner, has privately informed me that he now feels almost certain a fresh rising against the Austro-Hungarian army of occupation will shortly take place in Bosnia, under Russo-Servian auspices. In support of this view I may mention that a certain number of Bosnian and Herzegovinian insurgent leaders have taken up their quarters at Belgrade. These individuals, when they first arrived, were in such a state of destitution that collections had to be made in their favour. They now seem to be amply provided with funds from some secret source.

Prince Wrede, the Austro-Hungarian Agent, has also stated to me, confidentially, that the Turkish Boundary Commissioner has informed his Austrian colleague that he has been offered a large sum in Russian gold as a bribe.

Finally, Mr. White, Her Majesty's Diplomatic Agent at Bucharest, telegraphed to me yesterday evening that the Servian Diplomatic Agent there had taken, a couple of days ago, to the Servian frontier a large Russian subsidy in gold, said to amount to 800,000 fr., or 32,000*l.*

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 450.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 99.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November 7, 1878.*

A NUMEROUS deputation, consisting, I should say, of between 200 and 300 persons, called on me this morning with the Petition, copy of which is inclosed.

I explained to them that I was not empowered to discuss with any one the Treaty of Berlin. I, as one of a body of seven, had been sent here to carry out the provisions of the Treaty. Her Majesty's Government were anxious with the other Powers to secure the welfare of the people of the province. The old state of things was not to be restored, but a new one was to be established, called an administrative autonomy, in which they would in all essentials have in their own hands powers to secure a good administration of justice and a sound form of government.

The spokesman of the deputation answered that their only wish and desire was for union with their brethren in Bulgaria. They thanked England for her good intentions, but they were satisfied with the existing state of things. The Mussulmans could live with them like brothers, but they cared neither for justice nor anything else, unless united to their brethren.

In conclusion, one of them declared that, though he did not doubt the good intentions of the Commission, if it were sought to impose on them anything, however good, which was not union with Bulgaria, it would be resisted, and the old disorders would be renewed. Rather, he said, send all the armies of Europe with sword and revolver, and destroy them.

The deputation, I am told, consisted principally of inhabitants of the town, with some Macedonians and perhaps some Bulgarians sent up from Tatar-Bazardjik. The spokesmen had evidently learnt a lesson, and there was no enthusiasm amongst them. One man tried to get up a cry, but was checked by the others.

A meeting last night was held at the house of the Metropolitan Panaretos, at which, I am told, the deputation was organized, and the Secretary of his Eminence accompanied them to my door, telling them what to say.

I am told by Bulgarians that the inhabitants of the province are at heart willing to accept any really good form of government prepared by the Commission.

They are, however, worked upon by Russian agents, and it will be a great difficulty to obtain an expression of their real views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 450.

Petition.

APRÈS tant de souffrances inouïes, après les milliers de victimes si impitoyablement arrachés du sein de nos familles par les cachots, par la potence, par le fer et le feu, après la dévastation terrible de notre pays, nous, les malheureux habitants de cette contrée jadis si belle, avons l'inaliénable droit de suivre avec l'intérêt le plus vif chaque événement qui pourrait influer sur notre sort futur. Personne donc ne doit s'étonner si la présence à Philippopolis d'une Commission Européenne pour l'organisation de notre province nous inspire une inquiétude si forte que nous jettons de côté la charrue et la pioche pour chercher à assurer notre avenir.

En proie d'une pareille appréhension la malheureuse population des districts de Philippopolis et de Tatar-Bazardjik nous a délégués pour témoigner à votre Excellence de vive voix aussi, que pour les raisons qu'elle a eu déjà l'honneur d'exposer dans le mémoire commun, présenté il y a quelques jours à la Commission, elle ne peut pas accepter aucune combinaison qui aurait pour résultat le rétablissement, de quelle manière que soit, de la domination Turque dans cette province.

Les populations espèrent encore que l'Europe Chrétienne ne les privera pas de ses sympathies. C'est pour cela qu'elles supplient votre Excellence de vouloir bien les recommander à la bienveillance de votre Gouvernement pour qu'elles ne soient pas mises dans un état qui attirerait inévitablement à cette province, déjà tant éprouvée, de nouvelles catastrophes, encore plus terribles que celles des deux dernières années.

Les Délégués de la population agricole des districts de Philippopoli et de Tatar-Bazardjik.

No. 451.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 100.) [B.B.]
Philippopolis, November 7, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Commission sat yesterday for nearly six hours.

The first subject on the order of the day was the second part of M. de Kallay's proposal.

This was agreed to with some slight modifications; and I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship the alterations marked on a printed copy.

Different members of the Commission were told off to prepare respective chapters, the titles "Droit public et Privilèges de la Province," and the "Représentation du Peuple" falling to my share, while the Police and Gendarmerie were allotted to Lord Donoughmore, who has for some time been studying this subject.

The Russian Commissioners refused to take any part in these labours.

The next question raised was that of the repatriation of the fugitives on Abro Effendi's motion. The Russian Commissioners declared their belief that this was beyond the competence of the Commission, and that we could not interfere with the proceedings of the Commission on repatriation now sitting at Constantinople.

I stated my opinion that we were quite competent to discuss the question. We were charged with the administration of the finances. The refugees were owners of land and houses, and consequently tax-payers, and they should be here to pay their taxes. It might also happen that the expenses of their repatriation would fall on the province, and this would also come within the strictest interpretation of our functions.

It was then decided to go on with the discussion of Abro Effendi's plan, the Russians declaring their intention not to take any part in the discussion.

After Abro Effendi had made some remarks by way of introduction, and expressed his views, I stated that I was glad the discussion had taken place, though I did not adopt all the recommendations contained in the proposal. I said it was high time something were done for these unhappy people, kept out of their homes and property, some abroad, and others in squalor on the other side of the river, and maltreated by the Bulgarian police, Colonel Schepeleff denied the maltreatment, and protested against my assertion.

I, in consequence, read the petition of Fatma, inclosed in my despatch No. 96 of the 6th instant, stating that I had verified the facts. I also added that I had seen in the town Turkish houses, evidently before in a good condition, gutted and dismantled; and these would have served to shelter many now utterly homeless. I added that in the town there were 500 Jews from Carlovo unable to return there, from the ill-treatment they met, and that I had received from Constantinople a list of about 900 of the same religion who were prevented from returning to their homes.

Neither of the Russian Commissioners denied the facts contained in the petition, nor any of the others; but Prince Tzeretelew contested its relevancy, and questioned my right to read a petition which was before the Sub-Commission of Petitions.

I maintained my right to read any document necessary to illustrate my arguments.

We then proceeded to discuss the project paragraph by paragraph. All the paragraphs laying down principles were voted, sometimes by a vote of six, at other times by a vote of five, the German Commissioner almost alternating his votes between the Russians and the other Commissioners. The Ottoman Commissioners having withdrawn the recommendations of detail, their project under the title of a Declaration was put to the vote, when five voted in favour of it and two against it, the German Commissioner basing his vote upon the absence of any practical result.

The Declaration, therefore, was not adopted by the Commission, unanimity being necessary, but on the Protocol the votes of Austria-Hungary, France, Great Britain, Italy, and Turkey, will be recorded in favour of the Declaration.

I then proposed a resolution instructing the Finance Committee to examine into the possibility of finding means in the resources of the province to relieve the wants of the refugees and emigrants belonging to it. This was carried unanimously.

In the course of the sitting it was determined to make use of the branch of the Imperial Ottoman Bank established at Philippopolis to keep the chest of the Provincial Treasury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—Your Lordship will be able to judge of the spirit with which Russian authorities contemplate the distress of the refugees from the remarks of Prince Tzeretelew, contained in pages 5 and 6 of the 5th Protocol, which will be forwarded to your Lordship by this mail.

H. D. W.

Inclosure in No. 451.

Programme présenté par M. de Kállay pour servir à l'Elaboration de la Loi Organique.

LA discussion générale devra se diviser en deux parties, une première, théorique, sur les principes qui devront guider ce travail de la Commission; la seconde pratique, dans laquelle nous fixerons l'ordre des matières que le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale devra embrasser.

Les principes d'après lesquels je voudrais que le travail de la Commission s'accomplit sont les suivants:—

Ire Partie.—*Principes Généraux.*

(A.) Les dispositions du Traité de Berlin (Art. XIII, XXII, et LXII), devront trouver leur stricte application dans le travail de la Commission, qui s'interdit d'avance de proposer des changements dans le texte des dits Articles, et s'impose la tâche d'avoir

les Articles sus-mentionnés sans cesse présents à l'esprit pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique de la Province.

(B.) Conformément à l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, les lois sur les vilayets, ainsi que les propositions faites dans la huitième séance de la Conférence de Constantinople, devront servir de point de départ au travail de la Commission, sans pourtant imposer à celle-ci l'obligation de s'y tenir strictement. La Commission se croit au contraire en droit de les modifier dans toutes leurs dispositions qui ne répondraient pas selon elle à l'état ou aux besoins du pays.

(C.) La Commission s'efforcera de donner à la Roumélie Orientale une organisation répondant, autant que les circonstances le permettent, à l'esprit qui a dicté les institutions des pays de l'Europe occidentale, afin que la Province puisse s'associer au mouvement de la civilisation moderne et participer à ses bienfaits.

En conséquence, la Commission s'appliquera à assurer au pays de la manière la plus large :—

(1.) La sûreté des personnes et des biens ;
(2.) Une justice indépendante, prompte et impartiale ;
(3.) Un système d'impôt et une administration financière, conformes aux données de la science économique moderne ;
(4.) Des institutions de crédit, ainsi qu'un régime industriel et commercial, propre à développer la prospérité publique individuelle ;
(5.) Des voies de communication perfectionées ;
(6.) La liberté et la parfaite égalité des cultes avec une réglementation équitable des rapports entre les différentes communautés religieuses et l'Etat ;
(7.) Un système d'éducation publique qui respecte les droits et les intérêts des différentes communautés religieuses et garantisse en même temps l'essor intellectuel de la population ;
(8.) Une réglementation libérale des questions de presse ;
(9.) Une juste participation de toutes les classes de la population à la vie publique, ainsi qu'une représentation populaire, adaptée aux besoins du pays ;
(10.) Un pouvoir exécutif fortement constitué, mais néanmoins soumis à un contrôle efficace ;
(11.) Une administration civile qui concilie dans une mesure équitable les intérêts de l'Etat avec ceux des particuliers.

(D.) Considérant toutefois que les institutions politiques d'un Etat de l'occident, si parfaites qu'elles puissent être, ne répondraient ni aux besoins, ni au développement historique, ni aux habitudes de la population, qu'elles ne seraient sans doute pas même comprises par celle-ci et courraient par conséquent risque de demeurer lettre morte à bien des égards, la Commission n'entend introduire telles quelles en Roumélie Orientale les institutions d'aucune nation occidentale, mais appliquera ses efforts à réaliser le programme développé sous la rubrique C, en créant une œuvre qui réponde aux besoins indigènes et à l'état des esprits.

(E.) Le Congrès de Berlin s'est donné pour mission de créer en Orient un équilibre stable en conciliant autant que possible les intérêts et les prétentions contraires des diverses nationalités qui l'habitent et des cultes qui y sont professés. S'inspirant de son exemple, la Commission, en tenant compte des droits légitimes de la majorité, veillera cependant à ce que ceux de la minorité soient également sauvegardés.

2e Partie.—*Statut Organique de la Province.*

Division des matières que ce statut devra embrasser.

I. Droit public et priviléges de la province.
II. Droits des citoyens.
III. Droits et attributions du Gouverneur-Général :—
  (*a.*) Vis-à-vis de l'Empire ;
  (*b.*) Vis-à-vis de la province.
IV. Pouvoir exécutif :—
  (*a.*) Division des services publics et définition de leur compétence ;
  (*b.*) Nomination et révocation des fonctionnaires.
V. Représentation du peuple :—
  (*a.*) Droits et attributions de cette représentation ;
  (*b.*) Sa composition ;
  (*c.*) Mode de nomination de ses membres.

VI. Finances :—
  (*a.*) Administration financière :
  (*b.*) Impôts directs ;
  (*c.*) Contributions indirectes ;
  (*d.*) Mines ;
  (*e.*) Eaux et forêts ;
  (*f.*) Douanes et octrois ;
  (*g.*) Monopoles ;
  (*h.*) Voies de communication, travaux publics ;
  (*i.*) Postes et télégraphes ;
  (*j.*) Agriculture, commerce, et industrie ;
  (*k.*) Institutions de crédit.
VII. Administration Civile :—
  (*a.*) Division administrative de la province ;
  (*b.*) Enumération des différentes autorités administratives ;
  (*c.*) Leur compétence ;
  (*d.*) Mode de leur nomination ;
  (*e.*) Contentieux administratif.
VIII. Justice :—
  (*a.*) Dispositions générales ;
  (*b.*) Détermination des instances ;
  (*c.*) Division judiciaire de la province ;
  (*d.*) Nombre, composition, et compétence des Tribunaux ;
  (*e.*) Mode de nomination des Juges ;
  (*f.*) Ministère public ;
  (*g.*) Exécution des jugements.
IX. Cultes :—
  (*a.*) Relations des communautés religieuses avec l'Empire et avec la province ;
  (*b.*) Relations entre les diverses communautés religieuses ;
  (*c.*) Droits et devoirs politiques des ecclésiastiques et des Corporations religieuses ;
  (*d.*) Surveillance exercée par l'Etat sur les cultes.
X. Instruction publique :—
  (*a.*) Principes généraux ;
  (*b.*) Etablissements d'instruction publique relevant soit de la province, soit de l'autorité ecclésiastique ;
  (*c.*) Priviléges des uns et des autres ;
  (*d.*) Surveillance de l'Etat ;
  (*e.*) Question de l'instruction obligatoire et de la gratuité des écoles ;
  (*f.*) Nomination du corps enseignant en tant qu'il dépend de la province.
XI. Organisation de la milice.
XII. Organisation de la police et gendarmerie.
XIII. Organisation de la propriété foncière (Cadastre, &c.)
XIV. Règlement concernant les droits et devoirs des employés, leur avancement, leur retraite, et l'exercice du pouvoir disciplinaire auquel ils sont soumis.

No. 452.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 101.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 9, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a telegram addressed by the Grand Vizier to Assim Pasha on the question of repatriation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 452.

The Grand Vizier to Assim Pasha.

Le 24 Octobre / 5 November, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

IL se dit, que dans le but de remplir la Roumélie Orientale exclusivement de Bulgares on doit faire venir à Andrinople plus de 2,000 Bulgares, massés entre Constantinople et Andrinople, et les envoyer dans la Roumélie Orientale. Ces Bulgares ne possèdent pas un pouce de terre dans cette contrée: leur expédition dans la Roumélie Orientale est faite en vue de les mettre en possession des immeubles et des terres appartenant à la population Musulmane. Car les émigrés se trouvant à Brousse, à Smyrne, et dans d'autres pays, ayant entendu la nouvelle du rapatriement de leurs compatriotes sont venus à Constantinople pour rentrer: la ville et ses faubourgs se sont remplis d'émigrés; leur rapatriement étant devenu presque impossible, il a été représenté au Prince Labanoff de tâcher d'accélérer ce rapatriement. Le Prince a répondu qu'il jugeait convenable de les mettre dans les maisons abandonnées par les Bulgares émigrant dans la Roumélie Orientale, et de leur donner leurs terres à cultiver. Il résulte de cette réponse que c'est une espèce d'échange qui est projeté entre les terrains abandonnés ici par les Bulgares, et ceux abandonnés là par la population Musulmane.

Pour pouvoir exécuter cet échange il faudrait mesurer ces terrains des deux parts, en désigner la nature et le degré de leur valeur, ce qui n'est pas très-facile. D'un autre côté, beaucoup de Bulgares émigrant dans la Roumélie Orientale ne possèdent pas de terres, et travaillent dans les champs de tiers; ils ne peuvent donc pas recevoir de terres gratuitement. Il est donc impossible d'exécuter cet échange.

No. 453.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 102.)

Philippopolis, November 10, 1878.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY a short discussion took place on the Protocol of the previous sitting of the Commission, which will perhaps not appear in the report of the discussion of yesterday.

After my reading the petition of Fatma, Prince Tzeretelew had expressed astonishment at my believing such stories, inasmuch as statements made by persons much more prominent had been recognized as false.

Such were his words, I believe. It appeared, however, that he had given instructions to the Secretaries to insert the words "fausses et calomnieuses."

M. de Ring, when the Secretary came to these words, repeated them in a grave tone, and said he did not recollect them. Prince Tzeretelew, in a very excited manner, declared he had made use of the words, and he would do so then, and if any Commissioners asked him to name the persons alluded to, he was ready to do so.

I knew that his wish was to attack the Rhodope Commission, and not desiring to give him the opportunity, I merely said that I did not recollect the word "calomnieuse," but that of course he was the best authority on the question, and I added that I quite agreed with his opinion, as a great many prominent persons had in fact made, at different times, false and calumnious statements.

Later on, on a letter being read which had been previously addressed to the President by General Stolipine, the Governor-General, I made the declaration, a copy of which is inclosed, as well as one of the letter.

I did so after consulting Baron de Ring, who told me he had otherwise intended to make some remarks of the kind.

In the first place I could not admit what General Stolipine had laid down, that the administration of the province was based on the Treaty of Berlin.

In the second I foresaw great difficulties, if, after a discussion and an unanimous vote, we should be called upon to reopen a discussion with the Governor-General.

I am daily more impressed with the necessity of watching carefully that the rights of the Commission, as given by the Treaty, should not be infringed. Your Lordship will see, in one of the Protocols, a very ingeniously-worded sentence by Colonel Schepeleff, which might be construed into a recognition of the Governor-General as having authority over the Commission.

On one occasion, recently, Prince Tzeretelew observed that it was the Governor-General who gave us the financial administration, but on my calling attention to it, withdrew the expression, which would otherwise have figured in the Protocol, saying he had never used it in that sense.

Interpretations are constantly given in conversations to Articles of the Treaty which, unless corrected at once, may give rise to much misunderstanding.

Your Lordship will perhaps allow me to call your attention to a point which must shortly be decided.

The attempts at interpretation of the Russian Commissioners indicate the direction of their wishes, and I have no doubt that before long difficulties will be raised with regard to the duration of the Commission.

On looking at Protocol 2, page 4, line 6, your Lordship will see the interpretation placed by the Russian Commissioners on Article XIX of the Treaty.

Colonel Schepeleff says: "Sauf le droit indéniable qui est déféré à la Commission par l'Article XIX, pour la gestion des finances de la province jusqu'à l'achèvement du nouveau projet d'organisation."

In Protocol 4, page 5, line 22, Prince Tzeretelew remarks: "Le Traité de Berlin fixe la durée de notre existence a trois mois. Notre mandat prendra fin avec la signature du dernier Protocol."

Thus the Russian Commissioners have endeavoured to establish that in the interval between the presentation of the Report and the establishment of the new order of things, the administration of the finances is to be given to them.

If we are to take Prince Tzeretelew's view of the question, our existence terminates abruptly at the end of three months. If our Report is ready by that time, well and good. If not, the province is not to receive its autonomous organization, and we are not to give our opinion on the system established for the other provinces; but assuming that we have finished our Report within the three months, our administration of the finances is at all events to cease.

With your Lordship's leave I will telegraph on the 1st December, when only one month will remain of the three months set forth in the Treaty, telling your Lordship whether or not there is any probability of our terminating our proposals by the end of the year, when your Lordship will be able to decide on the expediency of raising the different questions I have laid before you.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 453.

General Stolipine to the President of the East Roumelian Commission.

M. le Président, *Philippopoli, le 6 Novembre*, 1878.

EN vous accusant réception de votre missive du 5 Novembre, avec la résolution adoptée par la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale dans la séance du 17 Octobre, 1878, je suis heureux de pouvoir dès ce moment me prêter aux vœux formulés dans la susdite résolution; veuillez croire aussi que je tâcherai autant qu'il est en mon pouvoir de faciliter par mon concours l'exécution du mandat dévolu aux honorables Délégués des Puissances signataires du Traité de Berlin, par rapport aux dispositions formelles de ce Traité.

Mais comme entre autres dispositions formelles de ce Traité, la Commission ne prend pas en mains que la gestion provisoire des finances, et nous laisse en plein, à moi et aux autorités constitués sous mes ordres, la lourde tâche de l'administration civile et militaire, je me permets, M. le Président, de fixer votre attention sur la phrase suivante de l'Article 9 de la résolution que je viens de recevoir: "Les autorités civiles et militaires leur prêteront main forte sans examiner la légitimité du motif invoqué par eux, à l'appui de leur réquisitions." Cette phrase met toutes les autorités civiles et militaires, moi en tête, avec le vaillant corps d'armée que j'ai l'honneur de commander, sous les ordres de la Commission; car ce n'est qu'à un subordonné qu'on peut intimer de prêter main forte sans examiner la légitimité des motifs.

La phrase que je viens de citer est singulièrement aggravée par celle qui suit, et dans laquelle la Commission elle-même admet la possibilité que la réquisition demandée peut être abusive. Comme la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale donne, je veux bien le croire, une autre interprétation que moi à l'Article

que je viens de citer, elle comprendra que je ne puis m'y conformer avant qu'il ne soit élucidé par elle.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) STOLIPINE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 453.

Remarks on Inconsistencies between Statements of Russian Commissioners and those of General Stolipine.

Il est nécessaire que j'appelle l'attention de la Commission sur deux questions soulevées par la lettre adressé à notre Président par son Excellence M. le Général Stolipine.

D'abord son Excellence dit: "Mais comme entre autres dispositions formelles de ce traité la Commission ne prend en main que la gestion provisoire des finances et nous laisse en plein, à moi et aux autorités constituées sous mes ordres, la lourde tâche de l'administration civile et militaire," &c.

Il me paraît indispensable de relever l'interprétation du Traité de Berlin, ainsi mise en avant par son Excellence. Nulle part le Traité ne donne aux autorités Russes l'administration civile ou militaire de la province.

Il serait superflu d'entrer dans des discussions à ce sujet. La question a été absolûment tranchée par les paroles de notre honorable collègue, le Premier Commissaire de Russie.

A la deuxième séance de la Commission le Colonel Schepeleff s'était exprimé dans les termes suivants:—

"Le mandat dont se trouve investie la Commission aux termes du Traité a, d'après notre point de vue, un caractère essentiellement législatif ou organisateur, sauf le droit indéniable qui est déféré à la Commission par l'Article XIX, pour la gestion des finances de la province jusqu'à l'achèvement du nouveau projet d'organisation. Ceci étant posé hors de toute controverse," &c.

A la troisième séance de la Commission, je me suis exprimé dans les termes suivants que j'emprunte au Protocole:—

"Mais les paroles de M. le Colonel Schepeleff ouvrent des considérations beaucoup plus larges. Il fait mention de l'Administration actuellement établie en Roumélie Orientale."

Dans la même séance, M. le Colonel Schepeleff est revenu sur cette question. Voici comment le Protocol analyse cette partie de son discours:—

Le Colonel Schepeleff "voudrait éviter toute discussion au sujet des interprétations données au Traité de Berlin par son collègue d'Angleterre. Il croit de plus que le discours de Sir H. Drummond Wolff n'a pour l'instant aucune portée pratique. Les autorités Russes établies actuellement dans la Roumélie Orientale s'y trouvent en vertu d'un Traité conclu entre la Sublime Porte et la Russie, qui seules ont qualité pour discuter entr'elles cet arrangement et les difficultés qu'il peut soulever."

Enfin je lis ce qui suit dans le compte-rendu de la même séance:—

"Les deux Commissaires de Russie maintiennent le point de vue auquel il se sont placés. Le Traité de Berlin n'ayant pas fait mention du régime administratif de la Roumélie, on ne peut songer à discuter la question de savoir en vertu de quel droit la province est administrée; ce débat ne peut avoir lieu qu'entre la Sublime Porte et la Russie."

Il a donc été déclaré par M. le Premier Commissaire de Russie que l'administration actuellement établie en Roumélie Orientale ne s'y trouve pas en vertu du Traité de Berlin, déclaration qui n'est pas conforme aux paroles citées ci-dessus de son Excellence M. le Général Stolipine.

Le second point sur lequel je voudrais appeler l'attention de mes collègues est le suivante:—

A la première séance de la Commission M. le Prince Tzeretelew a donné lecture de la déclaration suivante:—

"L'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin stipule un accord entre la Porte Ottomane et la Commission Européenne pour l'élaboration de la Roumélie Orientale. La Porte ayant désigné deux Délégués au sein de notre Commission, a manifesté par là son intention de prendre part à nos travaux et d'exprimer par l'organe de ses Commissaires l'accord mentionné par le Traité. Il nous paraît donc évident que le vote des Délégués Ottomans sera obligatoire pour la Porte dans la même mesure que celui des autres Commissaires, pour leurs Gouvernements respectifs, et que la Commission, ayant une fois terminé ses travaux, ne pourra plus être appelée à reprendre ou a recommencer son œuvre."

A la deuxième séance de la Commission j'ai eu l'honneur de faire une proposition qui a été acceptée a l'unanimité, et dont je rappelle les termes:—

"La Commission déclare que les pouvoirs dont ses membres ont été munis en qualité de Commissaire, lui paraissent équivalents et que, dans les limites fixées par le Traité de Berlin, elle considère tous les Gouvernements représentés dans son sein comme engagés au même titre par la signature de leurs Délégués respectifs."

A la troisième séance de la Commission, Abro Effendi a donné lecture d'une déclaration dans laquelle se trouvent les paroles suivantes:—

"Comme le Gouvernement Impérial est représenté dans la Commission par ses Délégués, l'accord s'établira au sein de la Commission elle-même. En conséquence l'accord sera considéré comme établi avec la Sublime Porte sur toutes les dispositions qui auront été adoptées par la Commission avec l'assentiment des Délégués Ottomans."

Je désire rappeler à l'honorable Commission que les décisions prises à notre cinquième séance ont été adoptées à l'unanimité, puisque d'après notre règlement l'unanimité est de rigueur, et qu'en conséquence tous les Gouvernements représentés dans la Commission y sont engagés par les signatures de leurs Délégués respectifs.

A la deuxième séance nous avons pris la résolution que la Commission ne reviendra jamais sur une décision prise définitivement, à moins que l'un des Commissaires ne demande que la question résolue soit remise à l'ordre du jour, en se fondant sur le motif qu'il considère la décision prise comme contraire aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin.

Dans ce cas une nouvelle discussion sera de droit; elle ne portera pas sur le fond même de la question, mais seulement sur la conformité ou la non-conformité de la décision prise avec le dit Traité de Berlin.

Il n'est jamais entré dans l'esprit d'aucun des Commissaires de faire passer une décision qui porterait atteinte, en quoi que ce soit, à la dignité des autorités actuellement existantes dans la Roumélie Orientale, ce qui du reste aurait été impossible en présence de l'unanimité requise par nos règlements. Mais les fonctions de la Commission lui sont confiées par un mandat Européen.

Je maintiens que le Gouvernement de Russie est solennellement engagé à faire respecter les décisions de la Commission au sein de laquelle il est représenté, et je crois que nous nous créerions un fâcheux précédent en admettant que les engagements pris par les Commissaires pourraient être méconnus ou désavoués par les fonctionnaires de leur pays.

Philippopoli, le 9 Novembre, 1878.

No. 454.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 103.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two Reports made by Colonel Borthwick (Mahir Bey) to the Turkish Commissioners on the state of Turkish houses and buildings in this town. A great part of his statements has been verified by Mr. Cartwright, who yesterday at my request visited with Colonel Borthwick many of the sites mentioned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 454.

Mahir Bey to Abro Effendi.

Philippopolis, November 7, 1878.

Excellency,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in obedience to your Excellency's wishes, I have commenced a thorough personal inspection of the mosques and moslem educational buildings of this town.

The following list comprises such buildings as I have already visited, and describes the state in which I actually found them. This list only includes the moslem quarters of the town.

I have already informed your Excellency that the small mosque of Piringe Mahalesse is the only one to my knowledge in actual working order and where prayers are held.

In the whole of the quarters visited I could not find six habitable dwellings, though in an occasional medresse, partially ruined, I saw groups of poor Mussulman women and children huddled together for shelter, and lighting small fires of old wood.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAHIR.

Inclosure 2 in No. 454.

List of Buildings Visited.

Name of Quarter and Mosque.	State of Building.
1. Bey Medjid Mahalessi	Interior of mosque in state of ruin.
2. Hadji Hussan Mahalessi ..	Mosque converted into a dépôt, by Russian authorities.
3. Hassan Emmin Mahalessi ..	Mosque: interior in ruins.
4. Yeddi Yollassi Mahalessi ..	Mosque in use as dépôt by Russians.
5. Medresse Djami Mahalessi ..	Mosque in ruins, and medresse in partial ruins. Occupied by a few poor Moslem women and children.
6. Tahkana Mahalessi	Mosque and medresse in ruins.
7. Imarez Mahalessi	Ditto.
8. Vinarez Djamissi Mahalessi ..	Mosque in use as dépôt by Russians; and medresse of ten rooms in ruins.
9. Yeshil Oglou Mahalessi ..	Large mosque; in use by Russians as dépôt.
10. Medjid Djami Mahalessi ..	Small mosque and medresse; both in ruins.
11. Yahoudi Mahalessi	Both mosque and medresse in partial ruin; the former in use by Russians as a hay store.
12. Orta Mezarlique Mahalessi ..	Medresse in ruins; mosque converted into dépôt by Russians.
13. Russun Djami Mahalessi ..	Medresse in ruins, and mosque used as dépôt by Russians.
14. Hallu Bonna Mahalessi	Mosque and medresse both in ruins.
15. Kuoun Sokak Mahalessi	Ditto.
16. Arab Mahalessi	Mosque emptied. Observed Bulgarians carpentering inside, and carrying in stores.
17. Alla Medjid Hadji Ismail Mahalessi	Small new mosque cleared out; windows removed; also carpets and candlesticks. The Mollah continues to instruct children and hold prayers in a small medresse attached to the mosque. States that Bulgarian children recently broke the door of the building, and threw his books into the water-closet.
18. Djuma Dami Mahalessi	Large mosque; in use as dépôt by Russians.
19. Kuberlushi Mahalessi	Mosque not ruined but closed; also, school-rooms emptied.
20. Saratch Hanch Mahalessi ..	Mosque closed. Gravestones overthrown and broken. Medresse in ruins.
21. Tchaukour Mahalessi	Mosque in use as Russian storehouse.
22. Buyuk Capon Mahalessi	Mosque quite ruined.

Inclosure 3 in No. 454.

Mahir Bey to Abro Effendi.

Excellency, *Philippopolis, November* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Excellency's consideration, a further report concerning the state of the mosques of this town, the items of which are from a personal inspection made by Captain Mehmed Effendi by my orders.

I myself yesterday visited a portion of the ruined Moslem quarter on the north side of the Maritza, and from some remarks made to me by a respectable and intelligent Moslem inhabitant, I was surprised and shocked to learn that an old order, emanating from the Russian authorities, but for some time in disuse, which strictly prohibited any Moslem residing on the north side of the river from crossing the bridge to the southern portion of the city, has since two days been again brought into force.

I can but imagine that the intention is to place obstacles in the way of suffering Moslems who might desire to represent their grievances in other quarters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) MAHIR.

Inclosure 4 in No. 454.

List of Mosques continued.

Name of Mosque and Quarter.	State of Building.
23. Rontangi Djami	Interior of mosque quite ruined; windows broken, furniture and carpets removed; and dome of building destroyed.
24. Tibah Djamessi .. .. .. (North of Bridge.)	Completely burned and levelled with the ground: only minaret remains, and it is in a great measure injured.
25. Hadji Emmer Agha Djami ..	Of this mosque only the four walls remain standing.
26. Tash Keupren Mehallessi (Meshdjid)	A space enclosed between walls, where it is the custom to hold prayers in summer time, and called a "meshdjid;" is so damaged as to be rendered unfit for use.
27. Hadji Mehmed Mahalessi ..	Meshdjid and small medresse completely ruined.
28. Hafiz Pasha Meshdjid	Complete ruin; level with the ground.
29. Dervish Meshdjid .. .. .. (South side of river.)	Interior completely gutted, and windows destroyed; the whole building rendered unfit for use.
30. Tchifin Mahalessi Meshdjid ..	Quite destroyed.
31. Kaurkané Djami	Bare walls alone standing.
32. Hadji Djami	Completely ruined.
33. Hadji Salma Agha Djami ..	Only the walls remain.

No. 455.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 104.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of the projects I was charged by the Commission to make under the head, "Droit Public et Privilèges de la Province."

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 455.

Project respecting "Droit Public et Privilèges de la Province."

I. La Roumélie Orientale est une province placée sous l'autorité politique et militaire directe de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, dans des conditions d'autonomie administrative.

II. Elle aura un Gouverneur-Général Chrétien, nommé par la Sublime Porte pour un terme de cinq ans, avec l'assentiment des Puissances.

III. L'ordre intérieur est maintenu dans la province par une gendarmerie indigène, assistée d'une milice locale. Pour la composition de ces deux corps, dont les officiers sont nommés par le Sultan, il sera tenu compte, suivant les localités, de la religion des habitants.

IV. Les droits militaires du Sultan dans la province se trouvent définis par les Articles XV et XVI du Traité signé à Berlin le 13 Juillet, 1878, entre l'Allemagne, l'Autriche-Hongrie, la France, la Grande-Bretagne, l'Italie, la Russie, et la Turquie.

V. Il y aura une représentation populaire dans les conditions ci-après détaillées.

VI. Sans le consentement des représentants du peuple nul changement ne pourra s'effectuer, ni dans les pouvoirs et les attributions du Gouverneur-Général, ni dans le régime administratif, judiciaire, et financier de la province, comme il est établi par le Firman Impérial basé sur les dispositions arrêtées par la Commission Européenne formée *ad hoc* par le Traité de Berlin, lequel Firman est promulgué par la Sublime Porte, et communiqué par elle aux Puissances.

VII. Les immunités et priviléges acquis aux étrangers, quelle que soit leur condition, seront respectés dans la province.

VIII. La différence de religion ne pourra être opposée à personne comme un motif d'exclusion ou d'incapacité en ce qui concerne l'usage des droits civils et politiques, l'admission aux emplois publics, fonctions et honneurs, ou l'exercice des différentes professions et industries. Tous seront admis sans distinction de religion à témoigner devant les Tribunaux.

La liberté et la pratique extérieure de tous les cultes sont assurées à tous, et aucune entrave ne pourra être apportée, soit à l'organisation hiérarchique des différentes communions soit à leurs rapports avec leurs Chefs spirituels.

Les ecclésiastiques, les pèlerins, et les moines de toutes les nationalités voyageant dans la province jouiront des mêmes droits, avantages, et priviléges.

IX. Sauf les cas prévus dans le présent acte, les Représentants du peuple, d'accord avec le Gouverneur-Général, auront la répartition et perception des contributions, et en général le contrôle des finances de la province.

X. Les Tribunaux en rendant justice sont indépendants, et ne relèvent d'aucune autre autorité que celle de la loi.

XI. L'affermage des dîmes est défendue.

XII. L'instruction publique est libre.

XIII. L'usage de la langue Bulgare sera établi dans les Tribunaux et Administrations, concurremment avec le Turc.

XIV. Toute concession de travaux publics, telle que concessions de forêts, ponts, mines, canaux, routes, chemins de fer artériels, est réservée à l'administration locale, laquelle en partagera avec la Sublime Porte, dans les proportions à être fixées ci-après, toutes redevances dues par les concessionnaires.

XV. La Presse sera libre dans les limites ci-après établies.

No. 156.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 105.) [B.B.] *Philippopolis, November 10, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose the office copies, and also three spare copies, of the 5th and 6th Protocols of the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 156.

Protocole No. 5.—Séance du 7 Octobre, 1878 (20 Chewal, 1295), au Konak de Son Excellence Assim Pacha, à Stamboul.

Présidence de Son Excellence ASSIM PACHA.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Contouly.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha dépose sur le bureau une lettre adressée, le 16 Octobre, au Président et aux membres de la Commission, par la Banque Impériale Ottomane. Sélim Effendi donne lecture de ce document qui sera déposé aux archives.

Le Protocole de la séance précédente lu par M. Rozet est adopté.

M. de Kallay désire présenter un projet de résolution en son nom et en celui de son collègue de France. Il croit opportun de donner sans retard lecture de ce document dont l'objet lui paraît avoir un rapport intime avec l'ordre du jour de la séance :—

Projet de Résolution.

"La Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale prenant en main, à partir d'aujourd'hui, la gestion provisoire des finances qui lui est dévolue en vertu de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, définit comme suit les droits et les devoirs qui découlent pour elle du dit Article :—

1. "La Commission arrête le budget de la province. Elle répartit l'impôt et le perçoit, conformément aux lois et règlements en vigueur, par l'organe des agents actuellement en fonctions ou par des agents spéciaux de son choix, là où elle le juge nécessaire.

2. "Elle opère par ses agents les paiements imposés à la Roumélie Orientale par l'Article XXII du Traité de Berlin et tous autres paiements qu'elle reconnaît être à la charge de la province.

3. "Elle règle les émoluments de tous les employés civils ainsi que ceux des officiers, sous-officiers, et soldats de la milice et de la gendarmerie. Nul employé civil ou militaire créé par l'administration ne sera attribué à la charge de la province qu'avec le consentement de la Commission.

4. "Elle nomme à la majorité absolue des voix et au scrutin secret un Directeur-Général des Finances qui sera le Chef de tous les services financiers de la province.

5. "Elle choisit dans son sein par le même procédé un Comité des Finances composé de trois membres, auquel elle délègue le droit de pourvoir à tous les emplois de finances autres que celui de Directeur-Général.

6. "Le Comité prend ses décisions à la majorité. Il procède aux nominations de son ressort sur la proposition du Directeur-Général. Il prend connaissance de tous les

nelés de l'administration financière, laquelle reste placée sous sa surveillance et sous son contrôle.

"7. Les employés des finances actuellement en fonctions conserveront leurs emplois, si le Comité les confirme sur la proposition du Directeur-Général.

"8. Le Comité révoque et suspend les employés des finances. Il provoque les poursuites criminelles ou correctionnelles qu'il y aura lieu de diriger contre eux à raison des malversations et d'autres crimes ou délits qu'ils commettraient dans l'exercice ou à l'occasion de leurs fonctions. Les autorités judiciaires ne pourront pas procéder d'office contre eux du fait de crimes ou de délits de cette nature.

"Les employés des finances seront poursuivis et jugés comme les autres citoyens pour les crimes et les délits n'ayant pas rapport à leurs fonctions.

"9. Les Administrations civiles et militaires doivent aux employés des finances aide et protection. Sur toute réquisition de leur part, à la condition que cette réquisition soit faite dans les formes et conditions prévues par les règlements, les autorités civiles et militaires leur prêteront main-forte, sans examiner la légitimité du motif invoqué par eux à l'appui de leur réquisition. Si l'Administration estime après coup que cette réquisition était abusive, elle dénoncera le fait au Directeur-Général, qui devra en faire l'objet d'un rapport au Comité.

"Les règlements visés plus haut seront élaborés par la Commission le plus promptement que faire se pourra."

Le Baron de Ring demande l'urgence pour le projet soumis à l'Assemblée. Si les membres de la Réunion qui n'ont pas participé à l'élaboration de ce travail ont une combinaison meilleure à proposer, il est pour sa part tout prêt à la discuter.

Le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique admet l'urgence. Il dit que le projet Austro-Français, tout en contenant plusieurs paragraphes contre lesquels il pourrait formuler des objections, offre pourtant un ensemble de dispositions acceptables. Rédigé dans un but de conciliation entre les idées extrêmes ce projet ne soulèvera probablement qu'un court débat; son rapport avec les questions mises à l'ordre du jour est évident et le Délégué de la Grande-Bretagne ne voit aucun inconvénient à le discuter aujourd'hui même.

Le Prince Tzeretelew partage l'avis de ses collègues d'Autriche-Hongrie et de France; mais, bien que l'ordre du jour soit très-chargé, il demande aussi l'urgence pour la motion suivante, dont il dépose deux exemplaires sur le bureau:

Motion.

"La Commission procédera sans délai à l'élaboration de l'organisation de la province. Elle poursuivra ce travail simultanément avec les autres occupations qui lui incombent, en consacrant à cette tâche des séances spéciales ou une partie de chaque séance, à commencer par la prochaine réunion."

La Commission à l'unanimité vote l'urgence du projet de résolution présenté par les Délégués d'Autriche-Hongrie et de France, et de la motion du Prince Tzeretelew tendant à activer les travaux de la Réunion.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion de la motion d'Abro Effendi tendant au prompt rapatriement des réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale.

Abro Effendi dit que les Délégués Ottomans ont l'honneur de proposer à la Commission de prendre telle mesure qu'elle voudra pour remédier à la situation douloureuse des réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale. La Réunion devrait au plus tôt s'occuper de cette question, car l'hiver approche et fera de nouveau, si l'on n'avise, des milliers de victimes. Les membres de la Commission, Représentants des Puissances, doivent élaborer l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, et les Délégués de Turquie pensent qu'il serait juste d'assurer les bienfaits de la future organisation à la population qui a dû quitter ses foyers comme à celle qui réside actuellement dans la province.

Le Commissaire Français croit être l'interprète de tous les membres de l'Assemblée en disant que leurs sympathies et les siennes sont acquises aux émigrés. Il prie toutefois MM. les Délégués de Turquie, qui sans doute ont plus que d'autres étudié la question, de vouloir bien spécifier les mesures propres à venir en aide à ces malheureux.

Il ne doute pas en résumé que si ses collègues Ottomans soumettent à la Commission un ensemble complet de mesures à appliquer elle ne les étudie avec tout le soin désirable.

Abro Effendi pense qu'il s'agirait avant tout de pourvoir à la sécurité des réfugiés rentrant chez eux, car c'est le manque de sécurité qui empêche principalement la réintégration des exilés dans leurs foyers. La Commission pourrait par exemple

délivrer aux réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale des passes qui leur assureraient protection à leur retour dans leur pays.

M. de Kaltny partage entièrement la manière de voir de son collègue de France et serait prêt à adhérer à toute mesure utile aux émigrés; mais ne connaissant encore ni le pays ni la nature des moyens propres à remédier au mal, il engage aussi les Commissaires Ottomans à formuler des propositions que pour sa part il acceptera si elles lui semblent pratiques.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff se place au point de vue de ses collègues de France et d'Autriche-Hongrie, et demande aux Délégués de Turquie de soumettre à l'Assemblée un Rapport détaillé et des conclusions pouvant amener une solution pratique de la question.

Le Prince Tzeretelew ne veut pas suivre l'exemple des Délégués Ottomans qui, dans une séance précédente, ont semblé trouver inopportune une motion faite par lui.

Il se range simplement à l'avis de ses collègues Français, Anglais, et Austro-Hongrois, et se joint à eux pour constater que la motion des Commissaires de Turquie, conçue dans des termes vagues, n'a aucune portée pratique et ne fait que témoigner de leurs sentiments humanitaires. Il avoue que, en ce qui le concerne, il ne voit pas comment la Commission pourrait venir en aide aux émigrés d'une manière efficace, à moins d'organiser dans son sein une souscription à laquelle il est prêt à participer.

Dans leur motion les Commissaires Ottomans parlent "d'exilés." Le Prince Tzeretelew fait remarquer à ses collègues de Turquie que si les émigrés de la Roumélie Orientale sont exilés de leur pays ils ne le sont que de fait, car rien, sauf le manque d'argent, ne les empêche d'y retourner.

Les Délégués de la Sublime Porte parlent aussi d'assurer la sécurité des émigrés rentrant chez eux: il faudrait d'abord prouver que cette sécurité fait défaut.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie croit inutile d'informer ses collègues Ottomans qu'il existe actuellement à Constantinople une Commission Spéciale chargée de réintégrer les émigrés dans leurs foyers. Les Commissaires de Turquie n'ignorent probablement pas que cette Commission, composée de fonctionnaires Ottomans et Russes a été formée à la suite d'un accord entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et sur la demande de la première. Cette Commission a déjà arrêté les bases d'un règlement pour le rapatriement des émigrés et délivre actuellement des passes à ceux d'entre eux qui rentrent chez eux:—

"La tâche de la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale," dit en terminant le Prince Tzeretelew, "est assez vaste pour qu'il soit permis de laisser traiter la question des émigrés par la Commission Spéciale et de ne nous occuper que de ce qui nous regarde directement; je demande l'ordre du jour."

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff invite de nouveau ses collègues Ottomans à soumettre le plus tôt possible à l'Assemblée un ensemble de propositions pratiques.

Le *Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie*, renouvelant ses déclarations précédentes, engage vivement la Réunion à prendre les mesures les plus efficaces pour le rapatriement des réfugiés:—"La Commission Européenne," ajoute-t-il, "est, je l'ai déjà dit, spécialement chargée d'élaborer le Règlement d'Organisation de la Roumélie Orientale. On éprouverait une impression pénible s'il fallait constater que nous abandonnons à leur sort des milliers d'exilés qui ont le droit de jouir des bienfaits de la Loi Organique dont leur pays sera prochainement doté. Je me réserve en conséquence de soumettre prochainement à l'Assemblée une série de mesures tendant au prompt rapatriement des réfugiés en Roumélie Orientale, et propres surtout de leur assurer la sécurité à leur retour dans leur patrie."

M. Vernoni fait observer que les Délégués Ottomans insistent particulièrement sur la sécurité qui doit être garantie aux réfugiés rentrant dans leurs foyers; il ne voit pas clairement par quel moyen la Commission pourra atteindre ce but.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff est d'avis que cette question se rattache à la formation de la gendarmerie indigène.

M. de Coutouly fait remarquer à ses collègues que la discussion de fond sera plus opportune et plus facile une fois que l'ensemble des mesures proposées par les Commissaires de Turquie aura été soumis à la Réunion.

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'il ne peut pas être question de discuter les moyens de garantir la sécurité des émigrés rentrant dans la Roumélie Orientale avant qu'il soit prouvé qu'elle est incomplète. Quant à lui, il nie catégoriquement qu'elle ne soit pas pleine et entière, et met ses collègues Ottomans de prouver le contraire.

M. de Coutouly fait observer au Prince Tzeretelew que les Commissaires Ottomans devront nécessairement faire précéder leurs propositions d'un exposé des motifs qui les obligent à en saisir la Commission.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha dit qu'à sa connaissance il y a eu de nombreux réfugiés à la rentrée desquels on a mis obstacle.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, sans vouloir entamer une discussion de fond, ne peut accepter les déclarations du Prince Tzeretelew: "Le Comte de Donoughmore, Commissaire Adjoint de la Grande-Bretagne," dit-il, "a constaté de ses yeux la manière dont sont traités les réfugiés revenant en Roumélie Orientale, et ses récits ne concordent point avec ce qu'avance M. le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie."

Le Colonel Schepeler ne peut admettre l'exactitude des renseignements recueillis par ses collègues Anglais. Il ne doute pas de l'authenticité de ce qu'avance Lord Donoughmore; mais il tient à observer que des actes regrettables isolés peuvent se produire partout; la police a pu peut-être se permettre certaines voies de fait sur quelques émigrés; des conflits fortuits ont pu avoir lieu. Il y peu de temps qu'il a quitté Philippopoli, dont il était Gouverneur: 12,000 à 13,000 émigrés campaient alors dans la ville sur la rive de la Maritza; ces gens étaient tous nourris par l'Administration, et quand on les employait à des travaux publics ils étaient toujours payés. Ces émigrés refusaient de retourner dans leurs villages, se trouvant mieux que partout ailleurs à Philippopoli, et ne possédant aucun moyen d'existence en dehors de ce que leur donnait l'Administration Russe.

Ils ont du reste reconnu qu'ils étaient parfaitement traités en présentant, plus d'une fois, des adresses aux autorités, même subalternes, pour les remercier de la sollicitude qu'on leur témoignait.

Le Comte de Donoughmore déclare qu'il n'a avancé que ce qu'il a pu voir pendant son voyage en Roumélie Orientale.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie, au nom de son collègue et au sien, affirme que les réfugiés revenus en Roumélie trouvent partout un mauvais accueil, et subissent les plus grandes vexations. Dans les villages on conteste leurs droits sur leurs immeubles en exigeant des preuves formelles de propriété que l'on ne peut fournir nulle part en Orient. L'Administration actuelle de la province les parque comme des moutons, les laisse sans ressources, et les expose à devenir la proie de bandes de pillards.

"Abro Effendi soutient," dit *le Prince Tzeretelew*, "que la Commission Européenne, investie du mandat d'organiser la Roumélie Orientale, doit par cela même s'occuper des émigrés de cette province; quelle est donc alors la valeur de la Commission spécialement chargée du rapatriement des émigrés, instituée avec le consentement et même sur les instances de la Sublime Porte, et comprenant des fonctionnaires Ottomans?

"Quant au mauvais accueil fait aux émigrés revenus en Roumélie Orientale et dont se plaint M. le Deuxième Commissaire de Turquie, avant de s'en occuper, il faudrait savoir de quelle façon ils ont quitté le pays. Pour ma part je ne voudrais pas suivre mes collègues Ottomans sur le terrain des récriminations; mais, s'ils y tiennent, je suis prêt à accepter la discussion et à interroger mes souvenirs."

Son Excellence Assim Pacha fait observer au Prince Tzeretelew que la Commission Spéciale dont il fait mention existe depuis cinq mois, mais que jusqu'ici la question du retour des émigrés n'est guère avancée.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie croit qu'il y a erreur, car la Commission dont il a parlé siége à Constantinople depuis quinze jours.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha dit que la Commission dont il s'agit a siégé pendant plus de quatre mois à San-Stéfano et s'est transférée depuis quinze jours à Constantinople; malgré l'existence de cette Commission rien n'a encore été fait en vue d'assurer le retour des réfugiés.

Le Prince Tzeretelew demande si l'observation de Son Excellence Assim Pacha implique un blâme à la Commission chargée de la question des émigrés.

Son Excellence Assim Pacha répond que sans blâmer cette Commission il constate qu'elle n'a pas encore accompli sa tâche.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie prend acte de ces paroles du Président.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion des propositions de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

M. de Braunschweig donne lecture des considérations et de la motion suivantes:

"Le projet d'une organisation financière pour la Roumélie Orientale, présenté à MM. le Délégué Italien et le Second Commissaire Ottoman, par la Banque Impériale Ottomane, a été imprimé et distribué assez promptement pour nous mettre tous à même de nous former dès à présent une opinion sur ce document.

"Avant d'entrer dans un examen rapide du projet en question, je tiens à constater avec la plus vive satisfaction l'empressement et la bonne volonté avec lesquels la Banque Impériale Ottomane a bien voulu mettre ses services à la disposition de la Commission, à la suite de l'appel que cette dernière lui a adressé par l'intermédiaire de ses Délegués.

"Je suis cependant d'avis, Messieurs, que cet établissement financier paraît ne s'être pas rendu un compte tout-à-fait exact de la nature des services que la Commission avait en vue de lui demander éventuellement. Je crois que nous n'avions pas l'intention de renoncer presque entièrement aux importantes attributions qui découlent pour la Commission du mandat prévu par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin, et de les céder à un établissement financier même si ce dernier jouissait, comme la Banque Impériale Ottomane, de la considération générale. Pourtant, d'après le projet qui nous occupe à présent, c'est la Banque qui serait chargée de l'assiette des impôts et de leur perception; qui nommerait à cet effet deux corps de fonctionnaires; qui jugerait par l'organe de quatre Inspecteurs institués *ad hoc*, et en dernier lieu par son établissement central, les plaintes des contribuables au sujet de la répartition des impôts; c'est elle enfin qui procéderait à la confection du budget annuel des recettes et dépenses, &c.

"Il est vrai que la Banque Impériale Ottomane prend dans son projet financier l'engagement de soumettre à la Commission Européenne des comple-rendus sur le fonctionnement des institutions qu'elle nous propose. Vous jugerez vous-mêmes, Messieurs, si cet engagement suffit pour nous assurer la part d'influence que nous devons avoir sur l'administration financière de la nouvelle province, du moment où nous assumons la responsabilité qui découle du mandat que l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin nous a dévolu.

"Je ne veux pas m'arrêter à la question de savoir combien de temps il faudrait à la Banque pour mettre son projet à exécution, question d'autant plus importante que la Commission ne paraît être disposée à prendre immédiatement en main l'administration financière de la Roumélie. Je ne veux pas non plus examiner si le projet de la Banque n'occasionnerait pas des dépenses plus élevées que la province ne saurait les supporter. Je me borne à constater que d'après mon opinion l'ensemble des propositions de la Banque Impériale Ottomane n'est pas, au point de vue pratique, de nature à être pris en sérieuse considération.

"J'ai donc l'honneur, Messieurs, de vous présenter la motion suivante qui, tout en rejetant le projet de la Banque Impériale Ottomane, réserverait à la Commission la possibilité de recourir, sur d'autres bases il est vrai, aux bons offices du dit établissement financier:

"*Motion.*

"La Commission, après avoir examiné le projet d'organisation financière présenté par la Banque Impériale Ottomane pour la Roumélie Orientale, et tout en reconnissant les avantages que ce projet offre sous plusieurs rapports, ne le croit pourtant pas de nature à être immédiatement mis en pratique. Elle se réserve toutefois, le cas échéant, d'avoir recours, sur d'autres bases que celles proposées aujourd'hui, à l'expérience et aux services de la Banque, et passe à l'ordre du jour."

Sir H. Drummond Wolff, avant toute discussion, voudrait savoir ce que pensent du projet de la Banque Impériale Ottomane les Délégués qui avaient été chargés par la Commission de s'entendre avec cet établissement financier.

M. de Kallay demande aussi à M. Vernoni et à Abro Effendi s'ils ont entendu se borner à transmettre le projet en question à la Commission, ou s'ils ont une opinion quelconque à exprimer sur le contenu de ce document.

M. Vernoni répond que les Commissaires Délégués auprès de la Banque Impériale Ottomane soumettent simplement à l'Assemblée le projet présenté par cette banque: ils n'ont rien à y ajouter et ne comptent remettre aucun Rapport à leurs collègues.

Après un court échange d'idées entre ses membres, la Commission adopte à l'unanimité la motion de M. de Braunschweig.

L'Assemblée passe à la discussion sur le projet de résolution de MM. de Kallay et de Ring.

M. de Kallay recommande son projet et l'ensemble des propositions qu'il renferme comme le seul moyen pratique d'arriver à l'exécution de la tâche imposée à la Commission par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin;

"Les Commissaires de France et d'Autriche-Hongrie ne veulent," dit-il, "que faciliter cette tâche en précisant les droits et devoirs de la Commission, sans rien préjuger à l'avance de l'organisation définitive des finances de la Roumélie Orientale. Je prie en conséquence la Commission de voter la résolution proposée."

M. de Braunschweig accepte le projet, car il lui paraît conforme à l'esprit de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff déclare que le projet en question ayant été élaboré par deux membres qui ne représentent pas d'opinions extrêmes, et qui, de plus, ont exercé depuis le commencement des travaux de l'Assemblée une influence conciliatrice, il y adhère également.

Les Commissaires de Russie considèrent la résolution Austro-Française comme une interprétation de l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin. Ils auraient préféré que toute la question financière fut traitée à Philippopoli avec le secours de renseignements recueillis dans le pays. Mais si tous les Commissaires acceptent le projet, la Délégation de Russie n'y fera aucune opposition.

Les Commissaires d'Italie et de Turquie adhèrent également au projet de résolution de MM. de Kallay et de Ring, et le Président constate qu'il a obtenu l'unanimité des suffrages.

L'Assemblée passe à l'examen de la motion du Prince Tzeretelew tendant à activer les travaux de la Commission.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie accepte avec plaisir cette motion d'ordre, d'autant plus que dès la première Réunion il eût voulu établir un programme déterminé des travaux de la Commission pour éviter toute perte de temps.

M. de Ring adhère à la motion du Prince Tzeretelew aussi bien dans son esprit que dans sa forme.

M. de Braunschweig, *Sir H. Drummond Wolff*, et *M. Vernoni* l'acceptent également.

Les Commissaires de Turquie se rallient aussi à la proposition du Prince Tzeretelew. Ils se réservent seulement de présenter à la Commission le projet d'organisation pour la Roumélie Orientale que la Sublime Porte a mis à l'étude et qui a été annoncé à l'Assemblée par Son Altesse le Grand Vizir le jour de la première réunion à Caulidja.

La Commission décide de procéder sans retard à la nomination du Comité des Finances prévu par le paragraphe 4 du projet de MM. Kallay et de Ring, qu'elle vient d'adopter.

Le vote a lieu au scrutin secret.

La séance est suspendue à 3 heures et demie.

Les Secrétaires se retirent pour procéder au recensement des votes.

La séance est reprise à 3 heures 40 minutes.

M. Rozet proclame le résultat du scrutin :
M. de Coutouly sept voix.
Abro Effendi six voix.
Lord Donoughmore quatre voix.
Le Colonel Schepelew trois voix.
M. de Braunschweig une voix.

En conséquence MM. de Coutouly, Abro Effendi, et Lord Donoughmore sont nommés membres du Comité des Finances.

L'Assemblée, sur les observations de M. de Braunschweig, de M. de Kallay, et de Sir H. Drummond Wolff, ajourne l'élection du Directeur-Général des Finances de la nouvelle province, afin de laisser à tous ses membres le temps de se renseigner sur les mérites des candidats en vue.

L'ordre du jour est épuisé.

Les Commissaires Ottomans déposent leurs pouvoirs sur le bureau. S'ils ont tardé à remplir cette formalité c'est que les deux Firmans de son Excellence Assim Pacha et d'Abro Effendi ont dû être copiés à la Chancellerie Impériale et attendre ensuite la sanction de Sa Majesté le Sultan.

La Commission décide de transférer désormais son siége à Philippopoli. Ses membres se donnent rendez-vous dans cette ville pour le Samedi 26 Octobre.

M. Rozet est chargé par la Commission de louer à Philippopoli une maison où elle pourra tenir ses séances et d'y transférer le Secrétariat et tous les services qui en dépendent, ainsi que l'imprimerie. M. Rozet est autorisé en outre à signer au nom de la Commission avec le représentant de l'Agence Havas à Constantinople, un Traité

pour l'envoi régulier de nouvelles télégraphiques à Philippopoli. Les frais seront répartis par les soins du bureau entre les diverses Puissances.

La séance est levée à 4 heures.

(Signé) ASSIM.
ABRO.
v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

Inclosure 2 in No. 456.

Prôtocôle No. 6.—Séance du $\frac{21 \text{ Octobre}}{2 \text{ Novembre}}$ *1878 (7 Zilcadé, 1295), à la Maison de M. de Braunschweig, à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. de BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance et ouverte à 1 heure.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance lu par M. Rozet est adopté.

Le Colonel Schepelew, conformément à la promesse faite par lui dans la première séance, dépose sur le bureau une traduction Française des principaux règlements provisoires édictés par l'autorité Russe et actuellement en vigueur dans la Roumélie Orientale. Il espère que ses collègues auront ainsi à leur disposition des renseignements complets sur le système administratif et financier fonctionnant en ce moment dans la province.

L'Assemblée décide que ces documents seront imprimés, distribués, et annexés au Protocole. (Voir annexes 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, et 6.)

Sir H. Drummond Wolff demande aux Délégués de Russie si les règlements provisoires qu'ils viennent de présenter constituent à leurs yeux un projet pouvant servir de base à la discussion de la Loi Organique future.

Le Premier Commissaire de Russie répond qu'il considère ces règlements provisoires comme des matériaux que l'Assemblée pourra utiliser au cours de ses travaux.

M. de Coutouly, au nom du Comité des Finances, annonce à la Commission que M. le Chevalier Curiel, Attaché à la Légation de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie à Constantinople, a été nommé Secrétaire du dit Comité.

Le Président constate que les Commissaires sont satisfaits de ce choix.

Le Président propose de mettre à l'ordre du jour qui n'a pas été fixé dans la dernière séance :—

1. La nomination d'un Directeur-Général des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

2. La discussion de détail sur la motion du Prince Tzeretelew tendant à activer les travaux de la Commission, motion qui a été adoptée en principe à la cinquième séance.

L'Assemblée accepte cet ordre du jour à l'unanimité et passe à l'élection du Directeur-Général des Finances.

M. de Kaltay propose à ses collègues de confier par acclamation les fonctions de Directeur-Général à M. Adolphe Schmidt, Inspecteur des agences de la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

Cette proposition est acceptée et le Président proclame M. A. Schmidt Directeur-Général des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

Le Colonel Schepelew tient à faire remarquer qu'il doit être bien entendu qu'en devenant Directeur-Général des Finances M. Schmidt renoncera à l'emploi qu'il occupe actuellement à la Banque Impériale Ottomane.

Cette observation ne soulève aucune objection.

M. de Coutouly voudrait savoir qui sera chargé de notifier à M. Schmidt le choix de l'Assemblée.

La Commission décide que le Président fera connaître officiellement à M. Schmidt sa nomination; elle invite en même temps le Comité des Finances : (1) à s'entendre avec ce fonctionnaire sur les conditions auxquelles il acceptera la mission qu'on est résolu à lui confier; (2) à faire connaître dans la prochaine séance le résultat de la démarche faite auprès de lui.

Le Commissaire Adjoint de France donne au nom du Comité des Finances lecture du Projet de Résolution suivant, dont il dépose deux exemplaires sur le bureau et pour lequel il demande l'urgence.

Projet de Résolution.

"La Commission invite son Président à bien vouloir notifier à M. le Gouverneur-Général civil et militaire de la Roumélie Orientale la nomination du Directeur-Général des Finances, et à prier son Excellence d'informer officiellement de ce fait les Chefs de l'Administration financière actuellement en fonctions dans la province, en leur enjoignant :—

"1. De reconnaître le dit Directeur-Général comme le Chef provisoire de tous les services financiers de la Roumélie Orientale;

"2. De lui remettre sans délai la caisse ainsi que les archives de l'Administration qu'il est chargé de diriger;

"3. Et enfin de lui prêter leur concours pour l'accomplissement de sa tâche pendant la période de transition.

"La Commission invite en outre son Président à prier son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général civil et militaire de porter à la connaissance des Administrations civiles, judiciaires, et militaires, et de la population toute entière, par tous les moyens en usage dans la Province pour les publications officielles :

"(1.) Le texte de la résolution par laquelle, dans sa séance du 17 Octobre dernier, la Commission Européenne s'est directement saisie de la gestion des finances de la Roumélie Orientale conformément à l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin;

"(2.) La formation d'un Comité des Finances chargé de pourvoir à tous les emplois financiers autres que celui de Directeur-Général et de prendre connaissance de tous les actes de l'Administration financière, laquelle restera placée sous sa surveillance et sous son contrôle;

"(3.) La nomination du Directeur-Général et son entrée en fonctions."

Le Président met aux voix la demande d'urgence et déclare qu'il l'accepte pour sa part.

M. de Kaltay, tout en réservant son opinion sur le fond même du projet, admet également l'urgence.

Celle-ci est ensuite votée sans observations par les Commissaires de France, de la Grande Bretagne, d'Italie, et de Turquie.

Les Délégués de Russie, désireux d'examiner le projet à loisir, la repoussent au contraire.

L'urgence n'ayant point été acceptée à l'unanimité le Président met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance le Projet de Résolution soumis à l'Assemblée par M. de Coulouly.

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion de détail sur la motion du Prince Tzeretelew tendant à activer les travaux de la Commission.

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie dit que tout en formulant sa motion il a entendu laisser à la Commission le soin de régler elle-même l'ordre de travail qui lui paraîtra le plus propre à faciliter l'accomplissement de la tâche qui lui incombe. Pour sa part il voudrait consacrer à l'élaboration de la Loi Organique une partie de toutes les séances.

Après une conversation à laquelle prennent part tous les Représentants des Puissances, la proposition suivante, rédigée par M. de Ring sur les indications de ses collègues, est adoptée à l'unanimité.

"La Commission décide de consacrer la première partie de toutes ses séances à la discussion de la Loi Organique et de ne s'occuper qu'en dernier lieu des questions d'ordre administratif.

"Si le Comité des Finances présente avant l'ordre du jour une motion pour laquelle il demande l'urgence, la discussion sur l'urgence est de droit. Si l'urgence est prononcée le Président peut faire discuter la motion elle-même avant la fin de la séance, et interrompre à cet effet le débat sur la Loi Organique. En général il n'interrompra toutefois le débat qu'après une heure.

"Si l'urgence n'est pas prononcée, le Président mettra la motion à l'ordre du jour de la séance suivante et veillera à ce qu'elle puisse être discutée à fond et résolue dans la même séance."

Abro Effendi présente à la Commission le projet de Règlement Organique pour la Roumélie Orientale élaboré par la Sublime Porte et annoncé aux Délégués des Puissances le jour de leur première réunion par son Altesse le Grand Vizir : "Nous croyons," dit-il, "que ce projet renferme tous les principes nécessaires pour assurer le bonheur de la nouvelle province. Il ne contient pas encore tous les détails et toutes les règles pratiques pour l'application de ces principes. Mais c'est en quelque sorte un canevas, et pour le compléter les Délégués Ottomans font appel au bon vouloir et aux lumières de tous leurs collègues. J'ai l'honneur de déposer deux exemplaires de ce travail sur le bureau, et je demande qu'il soit mis à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance."

Le projet de Règlement Organique proposé par les Délégués Ottomans sera imprimé, distribué, et annexé au Protocole. (Voir Annexe No. 7.)

M. de Kaltay constate que la Commission vient d'établir que l'élaboration de la Loi Organique occuperait le début de toutes ses séances : "Divers documents," ajoute-t-il, "ont été jusqu'ici déposés sur le bureau; il va de soi que chacun d'eux doit être pris en sérieuse considération. La Commission devrait commencer par faire un triage de tous les matériaux qui lui sont soumis et les examiner. Elle devrait ensuite ouvrir une discussion générale, afin d'établir ne fut-ce que quelques principes fondamentaux qui serviraient de base au Règlement Organique. Ensuite viendraient les détails, chapitre par chapitre : droit public de la province, attributions du Gouverneur-Général, pouvoir législatif et exécutif, services judiciaire et administratif, police, gendarmerie, cultes, &c., &c. C'est pour moi la seule manière rationnelle de procéder à la rédaction de la Loi Organique que nous devons élaborer."

Après un court délai, tous les Commissaires adoptent la manière de voir de M. de Kaltay et conviennent de trier et d'examiner avant tout les matériaux déposés sur le bureau. On discutera d'abord les principes généraux pour aborder ensuite les détails.

La Commission, sur la proposition du Baron de Ring, charge le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie de procéder à cet examen et de présenter à la prochaine séance un programme de travaux conforme aux idées exposées par lui.

Abro Effendi rappelle que, dans la dernière séance les Commissaires Ottomans ayant entretenu leurs collègues de la question des réfugiés, la Commission les a priés de formuler ultérieurement des propositions à ce sujet. Ils déposent aujourd'hui sur

le bureau et soumettent à la Commission le projet de règlement suivant, destiné à secourir les malheureux réfugiés dispersés de tous côtés et privés de tout abri :

Projet de Règlement présenté par les Délégués Ottomans pour le Repatriement des Réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale.

I.

(*a.*) Les réfugiés ont le droit de rentrer librement dans la Roumélie Orientale et de s'établir de nouveau dans les localités qu'ils habitaient auparavant.

(*b.*) Leurs personnes, leur honneur, et leurs biens doivent être pleinement sauvegardés.

(*c.*) Le principe de la parité des traitements dans les mesures de police doit être strictement appliqué par rapport aux réfugiés rentrés dans la province et aux autres éléments de la population.

(*d.*) Les ci-devant réfugiés habitants bourgs ou villages ont pleine liberté de vaquer aux travaux des champs et d'aller d'un endroit à un autre, notamment de se rendre au siége de l'Administration.

(*e.*) Ceux que le Gouvernement Ottoman a armés pour son service pendant la guerre et ceux qu'il a employés à un titre quelconque ne doivent pas être inquiétés.

(*f.*) Toute facilité doit être laissée aux ci-devant réfugiés pour qu'ils puissent se procurer des instruments de labour et des semences.

(*g.*) Ils peuvent, comme par le passé, user du droit d'affouage dans les forêts communales ou appartenant à l'Etat.

(*h.*) Les réfugiés rentrés dans leurs foyers doivent être remis le plus promptement possible en possession de leurs immeubles.

(*i.*) Pour établir leurs droits à cette réintégration, il leur suffit de prouver qu'ils étaient en possession de leurs immeubles à l'époque où ils ont été obligés de s'éloigner. La présomption de propriété résultant de cette possession ne peut-être renversée que par des titres antérieurs à la dite époque, relatifs aux mêmes immeubles et établissant qu'ils appartiennent à une autre ou à d'autres personnes.

(*j.*) Les céréales et approvisionnements de toute nature appartenant à des ci-devant réfugiés qui auraient été pris par des tiers, ou sequestrés par l'autorité, devront être restitués à leurs propriétaires.

A défaut de restitution en nature, le prix en sera payé en espèces aux cours de l'époque de la main mise.

(*k.*) Ceux dont les maisons ont été brûlées ou démolies et qui n'auront pas été indemnisés seront déchargés de tout impôt jusqu'à la réorganisation de la province.

(*l.*) Les réfugiés dont le retour est retardé ont le droit d'envoyer dans la province des mandataires ou d'en choisir parmi les habitants du pays. Leurs droits sont les mêmes que ceux des réfugiés déjà repatriés. Aucun empêchement ne doit être opposé aux mandataires dans l'accomplissement de leur mandat.

II.

(*a.*) Une Sous-Commission spécialement déléguée par la Commission Européenne veille et pourvoit au repatriement des réfugiés.

(*b.*) La Sous-Commission institue et nomme des agents dans les parties de l'Empire où il y a actuellement des agglomérations de réfugiés de la Roumélie Orientale. Ces agents ont un caractère public, et sont accrédités auprès des autorités auxquelles ils peuvent réclamer aide et assistance pour l'accomplissement de leur mission.

(*c.*) Les agents de la Sous-Commission délivrent des passes officielles, valables comme passeports et feuilles de route, moyennant lesquels les réfugiés doivent être admis à pénétrer et à circuler librement dans la province.

(*d.*) La Sous-Commission institue et nomme dans la province au chef-lieu de chaque sandjak, et dans toute autre localité où besoin sera, des Commissions locales qui lui servent d'agences.

(*e.*) Les Commissions locales connaissent de toutes affaires et de tous litiges concernant les réfugiés repatriés ou non repatriés. Toute dénonciation, toute plainte, toute réclamation formée, soit par des réfugiés repatriés ou par des mandataires de réfugiés, soit contre eux, doivent être préalablement soumises à ces Commissions.

(*f.*) Les décisions des Commissions locales peuvent être référées à la Sous-

Commission Spéciale qui, selon la gravité ou l'importance du cas, statue elle-même ou en réfère à la Commission Européenne.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance, fixée au Lundi, 4 Novembre :

1. La discussion sur la Loi Organique (lecture par M. de Kallay, d'un programme des travaux).

2. Le Rapport du Comité des Finances sur les conditions auxquelles M. Schmidt se chargerait des fonctions de Directeur-Général des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale.

3. La discussion du Projet de Résolution lu par M. de Coutouly au nom du Comité des Finances.

4. La discussion du Projet de Règlement pour le repatriement des réfugiés en Roumélie Orientale, présenté par les Commissaires Ottomans.

M. Rozet annonce à la Commission que la maison où se tiendront désormais ses séances a été louée et est prête à la recevoir. La Commission prend acte de ce renseignement, et prie le Président et le Secrétaire de se procurer les plantons nécessaires à son service.

La séance est levée à 3 heures et demie.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY.
SELIM.

No. 457.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 107.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 11, 1878.

I UNDERSTAND that a monster deputation is preparing to wait on the Commissioners with the view of protesting against the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

Two deputations of widows from Batak and Tatar-Bazardjik are also to visit us. These deputations are arranged by a Central Committee which meets at the police office in this town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 458.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 108.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 12, 1878.

YESTERDAY morning the town was alarmed by the closing of the Bulgarian shops in the bazaar. The Greeks, Jews, and others, alarmed at the unusual occurrence, closed theirs also.

It appears, and I have this on authentic information, that in the morning Bulgarian policemen told the Bulgarian shopkeepers to shut their shops and take up arms, as there was to be a combat.

Crowds assembled in some parts of the town, but not, as far as I can learn, armed.

Later, Russian officers went to the bazaar and ordered the shops to be opened, under the threat of a heavy fine.

The cause of the commotion was, I understand, an idea promulgated at a meeting held at the Metropolitan's house that the finances were to be handed over to the Turks, Abro Effendi having been elected by the Sub-Committee of Finance their President, an act of pure courtesy to him, as being much older than either of the two other Commissioners, M. Coutouly and Lord Donoughmore.

The Governor-General had given orders for the delivery of the chest yesterday at 10 o'clock, and notified the circumstance to the Commission. At 10 o'clock, however, when the Director-General went to the Finance Office, with M. Coutouly, M. Geshoff, the cashier, a relative, I believe, of the gentleman who takes so leading a part in Bulgarian politics, informed them that he had received no orders on the subject.

Later on in the day, however, the chest, containing about 260,000 francs, was given over to M. Schmidt. This, I believe, does not include the chest at Slivno.

A meeting meanwhile was held in the Bulgarian schoolroom, at which M. Geshoff, the politician, is said to have made a violent speech. This ended in a deputation being sent to the Governor-General, who, I believe, explained the matter in its proper light, and pointed out that he was compelled to act in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin.

I fear that my telegrams conveyed the impression I was under when I wrote them, that M. Geshoff, the Treasurer, and M. Geshoff, the politician, were the same individual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 459.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 109.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a précis made by Mr. Cartwright of the last petitions addressed to the Commission.

Lord Donoughmore having ceased in his turn to be President of the Sub-Commission, I shall probably not be able to send any further such lists until after they have been submitted to the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 459.

Substance of Petitions addressed to the East Roumelian Commission.

THE Mussulman inhabitants of the eight villages named in the margin* have addressed petitions to the Commission for the redress of their grievances.

In all cases, except one, they complain that they found their houses destroyed on their return; and in every case their property had been seized. Many of them had returned by order of the authorities, only to be fired upon and otherwise molested day and night by their Bulgarian neighbours. Those of them who, before their departure, had handed over their property to Bulgarians, are now unable to recover it, or to obtain the share of this year's produce for which they had stipulated.

Besides these petitions, the Commission has received complaints from four individuals.

1. Hadji Rechid Emir Oglou entrusted his property to M. Tachella, but he now finds it has been seized by the police. His farm also was pillaged by his servants and labourers during his absence.

2. Serie Hanoum, widow of Ibrahim Pasha, cannot obtain the restitution of the property which belonged to her husband, although she is furnished with a power of attorney from the Russian Embassy.

* Aidin, Daghandji, Egriler, Vodina, Koudjakli, Stanimaka, Karadjadagh, Dunraly, and Yesinshalié.

3. Taïbe Mollah Hanoum appeals for help to maintain her family. Her husband has been in prison for forty days without being tried.

4. Hadji Veli, of Harmanli, sends lists of property amounting in value to 197,044 piastres, which he left in charge of M. Tachella, but which was seized by the Russians. He has petitioned in vain for its restitution. His shops, worth from 30,000 to 40,000 piastres, have been destroyed by the Russians, who estimate their value at only 12,000 piastres.

No. 460.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 110.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter forwarded to me from Sir H. Layard, and of a private letter, in which I sent it to the Governor-General.

Some of the refugees have already come here.

I purposely omitted some passages in the letter which I thought might not be acceptable to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 460.

Dr. Cullen to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(Extract.) *Pera, November* 6, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the most distressing accounts continue to reach me from the Rhodope Balkans concerning the sad condition of the unfortunate refugees there. I consider it my duty to call your attention to the present deplorable condition of these poor creatures, and entreat your humane intervention on their behalf. If nothing is done to relieve them during the coming winter, thousands of these homeless sufferers will assuredly perish from hunger, cold, and disease. Since the International Commission visited the Rhodope, none of the 150,000 refugees then estimated to be in that district have been able to return to their homes in Eastern Roumelia.

The presence of the International Commission in the Rhodope raised hopes of repatriation in the refugees. This caused many of them to leave the plains and make for the mountains on the way to their homes. The insurrection at and about Kirjally, and lately the Bulgarian insurrection, advancing to the Mediterranean from Samakov and Kustendil, have driven them back on the Caza of Davideré, where thousands of them are now crowded together in the last stage of misery and want. The accounts from that district are most heartrending. At Gumurgina the approach of winter has brought down additional thousands from the mountains, and not only are the houses and streets of that town crowded with poor creatures in utter destitution, and suffering terribly from fever, which daily claims numerous victims, but the roads and fields in the vicinity are likewise full to overflowing of the 150,000 refugees in the Rhodope; more than 50,000 are widows and orphans, whose piteous condition demands instant attention. The Turkish Government is utterly incapable of coping with this terrible calamity.

Inclosure 2 in No. 460.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to General Stolipine.

(Private.)
Excellency, *Philippopolis, November* 12, 1878.

I AM convinced your Excellency will forgive my intruding on you with the inclosed extracts of a letter addressed to a gentleman at Pera by Dr Cullen, a medical man, who during the war, I believe, served under the Red Cross.

The descriptions given of the unhappy persons he mentions will, I am sure, raise your Excellency's sympathies.

I can assure you that I venture to submit this letter to your consideration solely with the view of alleviating, if possible, so large an amount of suffering, an object which I am convinced your Excellency holds equally at heart.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 461.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 111.)
My Lord, *Philippopolis, November 12, 1878.*

PRINCE DONDOUKOFF-KORSAKOFF has just arrived, and was received, I hear, with great demonstrations.

Another meeting was held in the Bulgarian school, at which inflammatory speeches were made, the people being called on to arm and resist the transfer of the finances.

A ground of offence is, I believe, the choice of the Ottoman Bank to keep the chest.

This choice was made with the consent of the Russian Commissioners.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 462.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1394.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 9, 1878.*

SOME gentlemen, calling themselves "Bulgarian Delegates," came to the Embassy yesterday with a memorial, which they asked to place in my hands. As I refused to receive them, they sent in the document which they wished to present to me personally. Finding that it was one of the usual protests against the Treaty of Berlin, and a demand that Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia should be united to Bulgaria, I declined to receive it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 463.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1396.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 10, 1878.*

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1335 of the 31st ultimo, I have brought to the notice of Safvet Pasha the statement of Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, that orders had been given for the erection of a new hospital at Podgoritza, and that a number of huts are also being built as winter quarters for the troops at that place. His Highness replied that the responsibility of these proceedings, if Mr. Kirby Green's information was trustworthy, must chiefly rest with the Governor of Scutari, who had been trying to make himself popular with the Albanians, and was not acting in accordance with the intentions and orders of the Porte. I strongly represented to his Highness the importance of at once putting an end to a state of things which might seriously compromise the Porte, by recalling Hussein Pasha. I have reason to hope that he will take this step.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 464.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1397. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter to me from Rustem Pasha, relating to the measures taken by the French Consul-General at Beyrout to obtain the return to Mount Lebanon of Bishop Butros Bistany, who, as your Lordship is aware, was exiled to Jerusalem on account of the mischievous intrigues that he was carrying on in the Mountain. I have expressed privately to M. Fournier my regret that, after the French Government had approved the support given by its Acting Consul-General to Rustem Pasha in removing the Bishop from Lebanon, it should now insist upon his recall, thus giving him a virtual triumph over the Governor-General, which could not but be injurious to his authority. My French colleague, who has all along been strongly in favour of the step taken by the Governor-General, did not conceal his regret that his Government should have found it necessary, in consequence of the pressure brought to bear upon it by the clerical party, to demand that Bishop Bistany should be sent back to Mount Lebanon, and that it had, moreover, directed that he should be conveyed to Beyrout, or some other port on the Syrian coast, in a French vessel of war, if one were at hand, and, if not, in a steamer belonging to the "Messageries." M. Fournier added that he intended to recommend that the Grand Cordon of the Legion of Honour should be conferred upon Rustem Pasha, in order to reconcile him to the step that the French Government had thought it necessary to take.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 464.

Rustem Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Private.)
(Extrait.) *Beyrout, October 30, 1878.*

M. TRICOU, Consul-Général de France, est de retour à Beyrout depuis quelque temps, et il m'a très-instamment prié, de la part du Ministère Français, d'entrer en arrangement pour terminer l'affaire de l'Evêque, qui, à Paris, cause au Gouvernement Français beaucoup d'embarras. Nous avons donc décidé que le Patriarche m'écrirait une lettre pour me prier de faire revenir l'Evêque, et que ce dernier serait autorisé à rentrer non pas au Chouf, où sa présence serait encore dangereuse, mais au Kesravan, où elle ne présente pas les mêmes inconvénients. Il devra y séjourner jusqu'au moment où je jugerais que son retour au Chouf pourrait avoir lieu sans péril. Cette solution n'est pas tout-à-fait ce que j'eus souhaitée; mais l'insistance du Gouvernement Français me créait une position fort difficile, et je n'ai pas voulu susciter, à propos de cette affaire, un conflit entre le Consulat-Général de France et moi, conflit qui aurait eu son contre-coup à Constantinople, et qui aurait causé à la Porte de nouveaux ennemis. Le séjour de Kesravan, d'ailleurs, qui est imposé à l'Evêque, le rend moins dangereux, et c'est là que j'avais, au début, demandé qu'il fût envoyé. Si le Patriarche avait alors fait droit à cette demande, rien de ce qui est arrivé plus tard ne se serait produit.

No. 465.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

[Not for B. B.]

(No. 1398. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of two despatches from M. Schefer, the French Consul-General in Bulgaria, which my French colleague has kindly communicated to me confidentially. They give an account of the conversation with Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff referred to by Consul Reade in his despatch to me of the 4th instant, and of the proceedings and language of the Imperial Com-

missioner, which is of considerable interest, and fully confirms the information that your Lordship will have received from other sources.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 465.

M. Schefer to M. Fournier.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Rustchuk, le 1er Novembre*, 1878.

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser le 21 du mois dernier. L'assentiment que vous voulez bien donner au projet que j'avais formé de me rendre à Sophia me détermine à quitter prochainement Rustchuk pour cette destination, où je me trouverai sans doute, d'après les informations que j'ai reçus, à peu près en même temps que les Délégués d'Autriche et de la Grande Bretagne.

Le Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff est arrivé hier matin à Rustchuk à bord du bateau de la marine Russe "Novorelsky." Le Commissaire Impérial devançant l'époque qu'il m'avait fixée dans sa communication, a déjà établi sa résidence à Sophia dès le 20 du mois dernier, mais a presqu'aussitôt quitté cette ville pour se rendre sur les bords du Danube, et visiter les villes riveraines du fleuve. Il doit partir ce soir pour se rendre à Schumla, où il ne passera que quelques heures, et de là à Varna pour retourner à Sophia par Rustchuk, le Danube, Lom, Palanka, et Bukofteha.

Le Commissaire Impérial, après avoir reçu à son arrivée les notables Bulgares, Musulmans, Israélites, et autres, a consacré toute sa journée aux affaires, et ce n'est que ce matin qu'à son invitation les membres du Corps Consulaire présents à Rustchuk ont pu lui rendre visite à bord du "Novorelsky," où il demeure pendant tout son séjour dans cette ville. Prince Dondoukoff a saisi l'occasion pour tracer un exposé de son administration.

"J'ai tout organisé," a-t-il dit; "les services administratifs, les écoles, les Tribunaux, la police, les milices. Non-seulement j'ai édicté des règlements, mais je les ai fait mettre immédiatement à exécution; l'impulsion est donnée, et toute l'organisation est en pleine fonctionnement. J'ai établi ma résidence à Sophia; je suis prêt à accueillir la Commission qui doit m'assister et me contrôler, et j'espère qu'elle ratifiera mon œuvre. J'ai pris du reste pour base la loi des vilayets, qui est excellente, qui est parfaitement adaptée aux besoins et aux mœurs du pays, et qui ne réclame qu'une application sincère et consciencieuse. J'ai maintenu le conseil des anciens, l'organisation des Tribunaux Civils de Première Instance, des Tribunaux de Commerce, et j'ai établi une Cour d'Appel dans chaque district. J'ai également maintenu le Code Pénal et le Code de Commerce Ottomans; quant à la loi civile, elle est éparse dans d'anciens règlements, dont l'application avait été défectueuse, comme celle de toutes les lois Turques. C'est à l'Assemblée qu'il appartiendra de rédiger un Code Civil ou de codifier les règlements et les usages actuellement existants et d'établir aussi un régime financier. Je n'ai pas voulu me charger de cette dernière tâche. Dès que la Commission sera réuni à Sophia je lui soumettrai l'ensemble des décrets que j'ai rendus, et que je m'occupe de faire traduire en Français, et imprimer. Je compte qu'elle les ratifiera. Tout ce que je demande c'est d'être assisté le moins possible et contrôlé le plus possible."

Après cet exposé, dont j'ai cherché à produire le résumé le plus exact en maintenant les expressions mêmes dont le Commissaire Impérial s'était servi, le Prince Dondoukoff a parlé avec éloge des excellentes dispositions, des aptitudes qu'il avait constatées chez les jeunes miliciens Bulgares; il a vanté les qualités qu'ils avaient déployées dans les manœuvres qui ont eu lieu à Philibé, et a annoncé qu'il cherche à compléter leur organisation et à achever leur instruction; il a annoncé qu'il porte en ce moment toute son attention sur les exercices de tir pour l'infanterie et sur la création de la cavalerie, et qu'il venait d'acheter 800 chevaux pour la remonte. Après avoir échangé quelques paroles avec le Prince Dondoukoff, mes collègues et moi prîmes congé de lui, et je lui fis savoir que je me proposai de me rendre très-prochainement à Sophia. Le Prince me retint alors et me fit les offres les plus obligeantes pour m'assurer un logement dans cette ville; puis, reprenant la parole lorsque je me trouvai seul avec lui, me fit valoir les raisons, déjà connues de votre Excellence, qui l'avaient déterminé à faire choix de Sophia pour capitale.

"La ville est au centre même de la Bulgarie," me dit-il, "car il n'y a aucune

illusion à se faire—la Roumélie Orientale et la Macédoine sont appelées à se réunir à la Principauté."

Puis, s'expliquant avec une entière franchise, il chercha à me démontrer l'inanité des projets d'exécution du Traité du Berlin, dont l'application en ce qui concerne les pays Bulgares n'etait point réalisable. Je lui représentai que je ne pouvais me prêter à ses vœux, et que tant que le Traité de Berlin ne serait point modifié d'un commun accord, je devais, conformément à mes instructions, en surveiller rigoureusement l'exécution dans la limite des attributions qui m'avaient été conférés. "Je le sais," me dit le Prince, puis abordant un autre sujet, il m'adressa quelques mots sur les difficultés qui, d'après lui, attendaient la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale à Philibé. La Commission selon lui trouvera une organisation complétement établie sauf en ce qui concerne le régime financier, et il lui sera malaisé de modifier le système administratif qu'il a déjà mis en œuvre. Le Commissaire Impérial aurait certainement prolongé l'entretien que j'avais avec lui, mais il devait sans retard se rendre à Giurgevo au devant de la Princesse, qui arrivait de Bucarest; et lorsque j'ai pris congé définitivement de lui il me donna rendez-vous à Sophia, dont il a le projet de ne plus s'eloigner. Le language tenu par le Prince Doudoukoff pendant les courts instants où il m'était permis de recueillir ses idées pour la première fois, me laisse aucun doute sur la nature et sur la portée de ses desseins, approuvés sans doute par le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, ni sur la connivence des Russes avec le mouvement qui se prépare dans la Péninsule des Balkans, surtout dans la Roumélie Orientale et la Macédoine. Si la Principauté est tranquille, néanmoins il s'y opère des mouvements de troupes qui accusent nullement le projet d'un soulèvement ou d'une résistance appuyés par les autorités et l'armée Russe au delà des montagnes. Les milices Bulgares à peine formées et dont l'effectif devait être augmenté, sont portés des rives du Danube vers l'intérieur de Rustchuk, Silistrie, Totrakan, sur Tirnova, Gabrova, et Plevna. Des convois d'armes sont aussi expediés dans les villes situés sur le versant méridional des Balkans. Enfin le 12me Corps, qui devait tenir garnison à Varna et être reparti dans les garnisons de la Principauté a, m'assure-t-on, à se rendre vers le sud pour occuper la partie de la Roumélie Orientale qui n'est occupée en ce moment que par de la cavalerie.

Les autorités ne sauraient maintenant invoquer pour justifier ces mouvements les appréhensions que leur causaient les dispositions hostiles des Turcs vis-à-vis des Chrétiens; quelque soit l'irritation des Musulmans, il ne peut servir de prétexte à une concentration de troupes aussi importante.

J'ignore les véritables desseins de la Russie, mais s'il est question de provoquer un mouvement dans ces régions, je dois reconnaître qu'il est puissamment secondé par les généraux et la plupart des officiers, comme par les fonctionnaires civils. Ils appartiennent pour la plupart au parti Panslaviste, et certains d'entre eux sont même soupçonnés d'être affiliés aux sociétés secrètes Russes. Peut-être le Gouvernement Russe a-t-il trouvé dans leur envoi en Bulgarie un double avantage: l'éloignement de la Russie d'officiers et de fonctionnaires dont les tendances et le caractère remuant pouvaient lui causer de légitimes inquiétudes, et aussi une occasion favorable de détourner leur attention et leur activité qu'ils peuvent impunément et sans danger pour le Gouvernement, consacrer toutes entières à la propagation de leurs idées parmi la population Bulgare. Aussi n'est-il point étonnant que tous les efforts de l'administration Russe tendent en ce moment à réveiller l'esprit national et à organiser une force militaire importante, et que, malgré les assertions du Prince, l'institution des Tribunaux de Commerce et des Justices de Paix subissent des retards.

A plus forte raison, n'est-il point question encore de la réunion de l'Assemblée des Notables ni de la prochaine élection du Prince, sur le choix duquel il est impossible de former des à présent la moindre conjecture.

La remise de la place de Varna aux autorités Russes n'a point encore été effectuée. Le 20 du mois dernier, M. de Baumgarten, Gouverneur du district, en réunissant les notables Musulmans, Grecs, Bulgares, et Arméniens, leur a annoncé la prochaine entrée en fonctions des autorités Russes, et dans une allocution qu'il a prononcée, leur a promis les mêmes droits et la même protection, sans distinction de race, ni de religion, et leur a recommandé la concorde.

Le Gouverneur-Général de l'ancien vilayet du Danube, Kaïsserli Ahmet Pacha, est parti de Varna le 26 pour Constantinople, laissant la direction des affaires à l'ancien Cadi de Rustchuk, Abdulhaïr Effendi. Bien que les autorités Turques refusent le logement aux officiers et fonctionnaires Russes, ceux-ci ont déjà occupé nombre de maisons à Varna. L'évacuation des troupes et du matériel Ottomans sera sans doute terminée dans peu de jours. Tous les détachements appartenant aux 13me et

14me Corps d'Armée Russes, qui occupaient la partie orientale de la Bulgarie, ont déjà franchi les Balkans.

Une partie de la Commission de Délimitation des Frontières de Bulgarie est arrivée hier à Rustchuk et part demain pour Silistrie; elle comprend les Délégués Allemands, Autrichiens, Français, Anglais, Italiens, et Ottomans. Les Délégués Russes sont déjà arrivés à Silistrie, où ils doivent être rejoints aujourd'hui par les Commissaires Roumains. La Commission doit tracer la ligne frontière qui séparera le territoire Bulgare au territoire Roumain.

L'occupation de la Dobrudja par les troupes Roumaines est imminente. Les forces qu'y envoie le Gouvernement Princier sont plus que suffisantes pour briser toute résistance de la part des populations, mais il est certain que l'occupation s'opérera d'une manière pacifique et que ce déploiement de forces est tout au moins inutile en ce moment. Le Gouvernement Roumain a l'intention de favoriser dans l'avenir l'établissement dans la Dobroudja de villages Turcs et Tartares; cette colonisation aurait, d'une part, l'avantage de peupler une région dont l'étendue comporte une population plus nombreuse et d'en exploiter la richesse agricole, et d'un autre côté elle fournirait à la Roumanie des éléments de résistance dans le cas où les Bulgares tenteraient d'exercer des revendications sur cette région.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SCHEFER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 465.

M. Schefer to M. Fournier.

Rustchuk, le 7 Novembre, 1878.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

AINSI que j'ai eu l'honneur de le faire savoir à votre Excellence par ma précédente communication, le Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff est revenu à Rustchuk le 3 de ce mois de son excursion à Schoumla et Varna et en est reparti immédiatement pour Sophia.

Le Commissaire Impérial doit ensuite se rendre à Livadia et il a le projet, à son retour, de toucher à Varna et Bourgas avant de regagner le siége de son Gouvernement. Cette information m'a été donnée par le Général Akimoff, Gouverneur de Rustchuk, et je l'ai accueillie avec quelque surprise, car, lors de son entrevue avec le Corps Consulaire à Rustchuk, le Prince Dondoukoff s'était abstenu de faire allusion à ce voyage et il avait même déclaré, ainsi que je l'ai fait connaître à votre Excellence, qu'il "attendait dès à présent les Délégués des Puissances à Sophia.

L'attitude qu'observera le Prince, après avoir, sans doute, reçu en Crimée les ordres de l'Empereur, pourra m'éclairer enfin, je l'espère, sur les véritables desseins du Gouvernement Russe.

C'est alors seulement qu'il me sera permis de savoir si le Commissaire Impérial a réellement obéi aux inspirations du Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, ou s'il a déposé ses vues en assumant la responsabilité d'une ligne de conduite compromettante pour son Gouvernement et pour lui-même. On ne saurait maintenant, en effet, élever aucun doute sur ses projets: le retour au Traité de San Stéfano dans ses dispositions relatives à la Bulgarie, c'est-à-dire, l'agrandissement de la Principauté et son unité, tel est le but qui est uniquement poursuivi actuellement par le Prince Dondoukoff et par le parti militant Bulgare, représenté à Rustchuk par le "Comité de l'Union." Quand même le Commissaire Impérial ne m'aurait point tenu le language que j'ai rapporté à votre Excellence dans mon précédent Rapport, la dédaigneuse ironie avec laquelle il s'est exprimé, en d'autres circonstances, sur l'œuvre du Congrès de Berlin, suffirait à témoigner du peu de compte qu'il semble tenir des décisions de l'Europe.

Depuis le départ du Prince Dondoukoff, il m'a été permis d'interroger ou de connaître les sentiments des autorités Russes et des Bulgares sur ses tendances et son caractère. La plupart des Russes le secondent activement et, adoptant et exagérant même ses idées, le suivent avec ardeur dans la voie où il s'est engagé; pour ceux-ci, l'organisation d'une résistance de la part des populations et la prolongation de la durée de l'occupation sont les seuls moyens qui puissent assurer la réunion de la Roumélie Orientale et de la Macédoine à la Bulgarie. Pour d'autres, peu nombreux, et moins susceptibles d'entraînement, les audacieuses visées du Prince Dondoukoff semblent devoir inévitablement entraîner sinon des dangers, au moins de sérieuses complications; mais cette opinion ne se révèle que timidement, et l'esprit de discipline ne permet point à ceux qui la professent de la faire entendre au Prince.

Quant aux Bulgares, leur préoccupation, à Rustchuk du moins, se porte surtout en ce moment sur le régime administratif et judiciaire créé par le Commissaire Impérial; ils ont critiqué assez vivement dans des entretiens confidentiels qu'ils ont eus avec moi, les règlements élaborés par le Prince Dondoukoff; selon eux, le nombre des Cours d'Appel est trop considérable, l'institution des Tribunaux de Commerce et des Tribunaux Civils dans les mêmes localités répond à une idée fausse; l'établissement parallèle dans les chefs-lieux de district et de Gouvernement, de deux Conseils Administratifs—l'un pour le district, l'autre pour la ville, dont les membres sont rétribués et n'ont qu'une tâche fort limitée, la subordination de ces Conseils à la Police qui exerce sur les autorités en général une prépondérance fâcheuse, le principe de l'élection appliqué à la magistrature des Cours d'Appel et des Tribunaux de Première Instance, toutes ces dispositions ne paraissent pas pouvoir être maintenues lorsque l'Assemblée sera appelée à discuter et à voter le Règlement Organique.

Je suis porté à croire, M. l'Ambassadeur, que ces observations que je ne fais qu'indiquer, ne laissent pas d'être fondées, mais je ne pourrai émettre un avis formel à cet égard, que lorsque les différents Décrets rendus jusqu'à ce jour par le Prince Dondoukoff auront été soumis dans leur ensemble à la Commission Européenne et que je serai à même d'en faire une étude attentive. Il ne serait pas étonnant que ces règlements, élaborés avec une certaine précipitation, ne fussent en contradiction, dans quelques-unes de leurs parties, avec les idées simples et les habitudes parsimonieuses des Bulgares.

Le Prince Dondoukoff qui a tenu à terminer l'organisation de la Principauté avant la réunion de la Commission, paraît aussi avoir voulu prendre l'initiative d'améliorations matérielles. Pendant son court séjour à Rustchuk il a énergiquement blâmé de leur défaut d'activité les autorités du Gouvernement et de la ville, et il a ordonné la mise à exécution immédiate de certains projets qu'il a rapidement tracés: le percement d'une rue dans la longueur de la ville, la construction d'un Palais pour le Gouverneur et d'une église, l'établissement d'un jardin public, la réconstruction de l'ancienne Préfecture et du moulin à vapeur municipal détruits par le bombardement.

La ferme volonté dont il a fait preuve, et le ton d'autorité avec lequel il a parlé, donnent une apparence de vérité à l'opinion qui lui attribue une certaine propension à jouer le rôle de Prince Souverain. Je trouverais, pour ma part, un argument en faveur de cette manière de voir dans son attitude envers les membres du Corps Consulaire. Malgré l'affabilité de son accueil, le Prince Dondoukoff a négligé de rendre à mes collègues et à moi la visite qu'il avait reçue, bien qu'elle eût un caractère officiel puisque nous nous étions rendus auprès de lui en uniforme, et c'est vainement que nous avons attendu qu'il nous déléguât au moins un officier ou un fonctionnaire pour accomplir cet acte de courtoisie pendant son séjour ou après son départ.

Les autorités Russes ont pris solennellement possession de la ville de Varna le 2 de ce mois; M. de Baumgarten s'y est installé en qualité de Gouverneur. Les autorités Ottomanes sont parties pour Constantinople, et il ne reste plus qu'un bataillon Turc dont le départ est prochain.

Deux navires Russes ont débarqué à Varna des chevaux et quelques centaines d'hommes, et l'on m'a assuré, sans que je puisse garantir encore l'exactitude de ce renseignement, que des marchés avaient été passés pour des fournitures importantes en prévision de l'arrivée de nouvelles troupes de Russie.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) J. SCHEFER.

No. 466.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1309. Very Confidential.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 11, 1878.

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph on the 8th instant, No. 979, that Safvet Pasha had summoned a special Council of Ministers for Saturday last, to take into consideration the Greek question, especially with reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 4th instant, relating to the proposal of the French Government, that the Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, should address a simultaneous and identic note requiring the Porte to assent to the rectification of the Greek frontiers, the substance of which I had communicated to his Highness. The Council came to no decision on that day, and was assembled again yesterday to further discuss the

matter. Safvet Pasha, whom I saw this morning, told me that it had agreed the negotiations should be entered into at once with Greece for the rectification of the frontiers, but he was unable to say how they would be commenced. They should, however, he thought, be carried on in Constantinople.

His Highness observed to me that, although he was himself most desirous that some way should be found to satisfy the Greeks by consenting to a rectification of the frontier, he was at the same time bound to say that it was absolutely impossible for the Porte to agree to the line of boundary suggested by the Congress of Berlin. To do so would be to deprive Turkey of the greater part of two valuable provinces, one of which is chiefly inhabited by Mussulmans, who are determined to resist annexation to Greece, and of the only ports in the Adriatic by which access could be had by sea to Albania. Rather than consent to this, the Porte would be prepared to bear all the consequences that a refusal to do so would entail upon it.

His Highness expressed an earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government, taking into consideration the great sacrifices and loss that would be entailed upon Turkey if she were compelled to accept the recommendation of the Congress, would give her their sympathy and support if she endeavoured in good faith to come to an understanding with Greece upon the basis of another line of delimitation.

As the decision of the Council had not yet been submitted to the Sultan, his Highness begged me to consider the communication that he had made to me as strictly confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 467.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1400. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 11, 1878.*

IN a conversation I had with the Sultan about Midhat Pasha some months ago, and of which I informed your Lordship at the time, His Majesty told me that it was his intention either to employ the Pasha in some diplomatic post abroad, or to allow him to return to Turkey with a view of conferring upon him later some high public office. On one or two subsequent occasions when I have seen His Majesty I have ventured to remind him of what he had said to me about Midhat; and a short time since I availed myself of an occasion to point out to His Majesty the unfavourable impression that the exile of so distinguished a Turkish statesman, who was literally without the means of living, could not fail to produce upon public opinion in Europe.

His Majesty, when I recurred to this subject, always answered by asking me to have patience, adding that I should see that he would seize the first opportune moment to fulfil his promise. His Majesty has done so. As your Lordship is aware, Midhat Pasha was permitted to come to Crete a month or two ago. The Sultan subsequently sent his family in a vessel of war to join him. His Majesty has now appointed him Governor-General of Syria, having dismissed Djevdet Pasha, who is notorious for his corruption, and who has brought the affairs of this vilayet into great disorder.

His Majesty had also promised me that he would recall Djevdet Pasha when, as I informed your Lordship in my despatch No. 1072, Confidential, of the 27th August last, I called His Majesty's attention to the reports that I had received of his misconduct.

I should have been glad, in some respects, if the Sultan had named Midhat Pasha Governor-General of one of the provinces of Asia Minor, in which the reforms required by Her Majesty's Government are to be first introduced. But the Government of Syria is, at the present time, one of considerable importance. The administrative experience and ability, and the firmness and decision of character of Midhat Pasha will, it is to be hoped, restore order and security in a province which has been most shamefully misgoverned for some time past, and the populations of which are, according to all accounts, in a state of great discontent, if not of almost open rebellion to the Porte. Midhat Pasha may himself put into execution some of the reforms that the the Porte has pledged itself to introduce into the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan. As I am in private communication with him I shall earnestly advise him to do so.

I have strongly urged upon Safvet Pasha the expediency of appointing Midhat Pasha as Governor-General of Syria for five years, so as to give a proof of the Sultan's

intention to commence at once with one of the most important reforms that Her Majesty's Government have pressed upon the Porte—the nomination of Governors for a fixed term.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 468.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1401. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 11, 1878.*

SAFVET PASHA told me this morning that when last week he had complained to the Russian Ambassador of the concentration at Adrianople and elsewhere of Russian troops, which he placed at the number of about 150,000 men, as contrary to the Treaty of Berlin, Prince Labanoff replied that it was perfectly true that there were, not 150,000, but 200,000 Russians on this side of the Balkans. But, his Excellency added, Russia had fully complied with the Treaty of Berlin, as the force under the orders of Prince Dondoukoff-Korsakoff for the occupation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia amounted to only 50,000 men, according to its stipulations. The remaining 150,000 men formed the army which Russia was entitled to maintain, according to the Treaty of San Stefano, in Turkish territory occupied by her outside of Eastern Roumelia, which she was not bound to evacuate until after the signature of the definitive Treaty of Peace. The Russian Ambassador repeated what he had frequently stated to the Grand Vizier, that until such a Treaty is concluded Turkey must be considered in a state of war with Russia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 469.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1403.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 11, 1878.*

WHEN speaking to me this morning of the intention of the Porte to surrender Podgoritza and Spuiz as soon as possible, Safvet Pasha said that he had telegraphed to Vienna to ask that the Mussulman Governor of Banjaluka (whose name has escaped me) might be permitted to come to Scutari to assist the authorities in obtaining the peaceable evacuation of those places. This functionary being a native of Podgoritza, and having great influence over the inhabitants of the district, it was believed that he would be able to persuade them to yield to the decision of the Congress. To compel them to do so by force, his Highness observed, might lead to bloodshed, which it was of very great importance to avoid, as there was great agitation in Albania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 470.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1405.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Therapia, November 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a telegram addressed to the Porte by Mazhar Pasha, the Turkish Commissioner sent to reassure and protect the Christian populations of the country evacuated by the Russian army, relating to the destruction of certain Mussulman villages by Bulgarians and Greeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 470.

Report by Mazhar Pasha.

(Télégraphique.)

TEVFIK EFFENDI, qui se trouve en mission à Ghumurdjina, vient de m'informer par télégraphe que, d'après la déclaration de deux Musulmans, 2,000 Bulgares environ ont assailli huit villages Musulmans, ont enlevé les effets, provisions, et bétail, incendié les maisons et massacré les hommes, femmes, et enfants qui leur sont tombés entre les mains. Ayant demandé à Tevfik Effendi les noms des dits villages et le caza dont ils dépendent, ainsi que la provenance des assaillants, il vient de me répondre par télégraphe que les villages sus-mentionnés sont:—

1. Muslimler de 30 maisons sis à l'endroit dit Vakeftdis.
2. Kuch de 15 maisons.
3. Vakif Kutukhu de 25 maisons.
4. Kieuseler de 18 maisons.
5. Karaviran de 55 maisons.
6. Babalar de 55 maisons.
7. Sarbdéré de 60 maisons.
8. Le quartier de Ramazan de 15 maisons.
9. Le quartier Islam Yataklari de 20 maisons.

En tout neuf villages situés dans le caza de Dimotika.

Tevfik Effendi ajoute que les assaillants sont des Bulgares et des Grecs du village de Sofoulou et d'autres Bulgares de Dimotika. Ainsi que j'ai eu l'honneur d'en informer votre Excellence à mon retour d'Andrinople, on prétendait que 150 Musulmans des villages Chehrova, Vakef, Naudji, et Seibenly, dépendants du caza de Férédjik, avaient assailli le village de Kotirdji (Dimotika), tué 2 Bulgares et enlevé un certain nombre de bétail. Sur les démarches persistantes du Général Todleben, qui semblait attacher à ce bruit une importance excessive et afin de ne pas laisser accréditer à l'étranger l'opinion comme quoi les Musulmans troubleraient la tranquillité publique, j'ai dû, tout en veillant au maintien de bon ordre, m'attacher à constater la vérité.

M'inspirant des sentiments de notre auguste Maître pour la sauvegarde des droits de tous les sujets de l'Empire sans distinction, je ne cesse depuis vingt jours de travailler à Férédjik pour découvrir les véritables coupables, s'il y en a, et pour les punir d'après la loi. Malgré toutes mes recherches il m'a été impossible d'en découvrir la moindre trace; je n'en continue pas moins à poursuivre sans relâche, et me couchant à la belle étoile, mes investigations et l'interrogatoire des personnes soupçonnées.

Dans cet intervalle les Grecs et les Bulgares de Lulé-Bourgas, de Dimotika, et ses dépendances, des villages de Ravsilé, de Sofoulou, de Kara Pounar, et de Her, décidés à émigrer à la suite des Russes, commettent toutes sortes d'excès à l'égard des Musulmans. Malgré les démarches officielles de la Sublime Porte auprès de l'Ambassadeur et mes propres communications au Général Todleben, les autorités Russes n'ont pris jusqu'à présent aucune mesure pour la punition des coupables.

Les Chrétiens, encouragés par cette apathie, se livrent à des méfaits continuels, de sorte qu'il ne restera probablement pas un village Musulman qui ne soit brûlé et détruit dans le caza de Dimotika ainsi que dans d'autres localités occupées encore par les Russes et dont les habitants sont décidés à émigrer avec la retraite des troupes Russes, et que les populations Musulmanes seront totalement dépouillées de leurs effets et de leurs bestiaux.

D'un autre côté, j'apprends que le Chef de brigands Petko, à la tête de 2,000 Bulgares, est arrivé expressément de Philippopoli et se prépare à incendier et détruire les villages Musulmans situés aux alentours de Férédjik.

No. 471.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1406.) *Therapia, November 12, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram of to-day, No. 995, I have the honour to inclose copies of the two telegrams from Count Andrassy relating to the occupation of the district of Novi-Bazar by mixed Turkish and Austrian garrisons, which Count Zichy informs me he has communicated to the Grand Vizier.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 471.

Count Andrassy to Count Zichy.

(Télégraphique.) *Buda-Pesth, le 11 Novembre, 1878.*

JE suis bien aise de constater, par les rapports de votre Excellence, l'amélioration qui se manifeste dans les dispositions de la Sublime Porte à notre égard.

Il serait à désirer que le Gouvernement Ottoman ne se laissât pas donner le change par notre opposition Parlementaire, qui est impuissante, l'appui de la majorité étant acquise au Ministère.

Veuillez faire observer cela à son Altesse Safvet Pacha, et ajouter que nous sommes disposés à seconder énergiquement la Turquie dans la question de l'évacuation de la Roumélie Orientale, et des autres territoires Turcs, occupés par l'armée Russe. Cependant il va sans dire que nous ne pouvons pas faire face de tous les côtés à la fois, et que nous avons besoin d'une base morale pour pouvoir appuyer la Turquie.

Il importerait par conséquent que la Sublime Porte ne tardât plus à conclure la Convention au sujet des garnisons mixtes dans le sandjak de Novi-Bazar sur la base des propositions que nous lui avons faites, pour prouver par là les bons rapports qu'elle entretient avec nous, et pour nous mettre à même de lui prêter notre appui pour l'exécution des autres Articles du Traité de Berlin.

Votre Excellence a déjà développé à son Altesse le Grand Vizir nos intentions à cet égard. Il ne s'agirait pas d'entrer dès à présent dans le sandjak de Novi-Bazar, mais de constater qu'il n'y a pas d'obstacles de la part de la Sublime Porte contre l'exécution de cet Article du Traité de Berlin, et que les deux Gouvernements reconnaissent la communauté de leurs intérêts de ce côté.

Inclosure 2 in No. 471.

Count Andrassy to Count Zichy.

(Télégraphique.) *Buda-Pesth, le 11 Novembre, 1878.*

AUSSITOT que le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal d'Autriche-Hongrie se croira obligé par les circonstances de tenir des garnisons en commun avec les troupes Impériales Ottomanes dans le district de Novi-Bazar, conformément au Traité de Berlin, et pour atteindre dans l'intérêt commun les buts politiques et militaires que les Gouvernements Européens ont eus en vue en formulant cette stipulation, la Sublime Porte s'empressera de reprendre les négociations avec le Cabinet Impérial et Royal pour arriver à un arrangement définitif sur la base des pourparlers qui ont eu lieu antérieurement entre les deux Cabinets.

No. 472.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1407.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, November 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the translation of a petition which was handed to Captain Murray during his recent visit to Kustendil, by the Mahommedan inhabitants of that place, complaining of the acts of violence and oppression to which they are exposed at the hands of the Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 472.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

ILS exposent qu'à la suite de la guerre entre la Russie et la Turquie ils ont quitté Kustendil, pas à cause de la présence des Russes en cette localité, mais qu'ils ont été forcés d'émigrer pour échapper aux violences et aux oppressions des comités sauvages Bulgares, qui ont dépouillé les Musulmans qui sont restés de tous leurs biens jusqu'à leur chemise. Ils refusent maintenant de leur restituer leurs propriétés et continuent à détruire et démolir leurs maisons. Les maisons ainsi ruinées sont au nombre de soixante-dix à quatre-vingt. Il est clair, disent-ils, que les violences actuelles ne peuvent être commises qu'avec le consentement des Russes, et que si autrefois ceux-ci pouvaient se servir de l'excuse de ne pas pouvoir contenir les Bulgares, aujourd'hui les comités seuls ne peuvent pas être accusés de la destruction de leurs maisons dont ils emploient le matériel à alimenter les leurs.

Ils prient le Commissaire Anglais de communiquer le résultat de son enquête aux Gouvernements Turc et Anglais, qui doivent protéger leur vie et leurs biens, et supplient qu'on veuille les délivrer des tyrannies dont ils sont victimes.

(Suivent les signatures.)

Le $\frac{1}{13}$ *Octobre*, 1878.

No. 473.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1408.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the telegram addressed by M. Ristich to Safvet Pasha, in reply to one from his Highness, requesting that the Servian troops should evacuate Turkish territory occupied by them.

The Servian Prime Minister states that he cannot consent to his Highness' request until the whole of the Turco-Servian frontier has been defined by the Commission.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 473.

M. Ristich to Safvet Pasha.

(Télégraphie.) *Belgrade, le* 11 *Novembre*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Altesse que la Commission Européenne s'occupe précisément en ce moment de la fixation de la ligne frontière au sud de Varna, notamment entre les Montagnes Polimica et Ceneiro. La plus grande partie du travail de démarcation se trouve aujourd'hui terminée, et on espère que si le temps est favorable il sera achevé dans une douzaine de jours. La ligne une fois définitivement fixée et comme ce qui n'est pas encore le cas aujourd'hui, les troupes Serbes se retireront de suite sur la nouvelle frontière.

No. 474.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

[Not for B.B.]

(No. 1409. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a despatch from the British Vice-Consul at Rodosto, forwarding a translation of a letter he has received from the Greek Bishop on the subject of the proceedings of Slav agents in that district.

M. Dussi requests that this communication may be considered strictly confidential.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No 474.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le* 9 *Novembre*, 1878.

SOUS ce pli j'ai l'avantage de vous remettre copie d'une lettre de mon ami "Mgr. Nazianus Gregorius," Evêque de ce district, de laquelle on peut se rendre compte des menées Panslavistes. Cette lettre, que je juge assez importante pour vous l'adresser étant tout-à-fait confidentielle, je vous prie de vouloir la tenir comme telle.

Le Capitaine Terske, attaché à l'Etat-Major du Général Gartchoff, a séjourné ici pendant cinq jours dans le but, dit-on, de faire certaines réparations qu'exigeaient les tombeaux des officiers morts pendant l'occupation. On a pu se rendre compte que ce n'était là qu'un prétexte, car aucune réparation n'a été faite.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) M. DUSSI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 474.

Monsignor Gregorius to Vice-Consul Dussi.

(Traduction.)

(Confidentielle.)

Honorable Ami, *Coumbao, le* 23 *Octobre*, 1878.

JE vous remercie pour la bonté que vous avez de venir demander des nouvelles sur ma santé et sur la tranquillité des Chrétiens. Malheureusement la même situation règne sur la sécurité et la tranquillité de ceux-ci.

Voilà ce qu'on m'écrit de Malgara :—

"Dans tous les villages que j'ai parcourus, j'ai trouvé un esprit de révolte et d'impiété chez les habitants, qui, excités par les propagateurs du Slavisme, ont presque perdu le respect et la soumission dus aux autorités, refusant d'accorder ce qu'on leur demande légalement et ne voulant pas exécuter ce que le devoir leur impose. Si jusqu'à présent ils n'ont pas abandonné leurs foyers, et s'ils ne semblent pas pressés de le faire, c'est à cause qu'ils cultivent le ferme espoir que les Russes réoccuperont le territoire évacué. Ils ne veulent pas entendre, et ils laïssent en ennemi celui qui, par la raison, cherche à les convaincre, leur montrant la vérité et leurs intérêts. Le pire c'est que, sans avoir le moindre remords de conscience, ils vous dénoncent aux Russes. Ce qui est arrivé à J. J. Lefki, et qui allait m'arriver à moi aussi, a eu lieu à cause d'une telle dénonciation. En compagnie de H. Logotheti, j'ai fait la tournée de plusieurs villages et d'après ce que je dis plus haut, votre Seigneurie peut comprendre toutes les peines qui j'ai eues, quelle humeur, quelle espèce d'accueil j'ai trouvé auprès des villageois. Mais en vérité il faut avouer que parmi eux on trouve encore des personnes qui suivent les principes de leurs pères et qui ne se sont pas laissé égarer. Cependant, devant l'impuissance des autorités Turques à appliquer des mesures opportunes en ces circonstances et devant la faiblesse du prestige ecclésiastique, qui peut garantir qu'ils continueront à être toujours tels quand on voit des Cosaques et beaucoup d'autres émissaires Russes parcourir le pays semant des zizanies et minant l'esprit des gens à l'impiété et à la désobéissance envers leurs propres autorités? En vérité je me suis trouvé dans l'embarras et je me trouve dans l'incertitude de ce que je dois faire."

Ce sont là les airs de l'intérieur.

Si vous avez quelque bonne nouvelle veuillez me la donner, en attendant, je vous prie d'accepter, &c.

(Signé) J. GREGORIUS.

No. 475.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1412.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November* 14, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 1262 of the 16th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Calvert, stating that he has brought

the recent outrage upon the Turks of Douwandja to the notice of the Russian authorities, and reporting the result of their investigations.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 475.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, November 8, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the ultimo, instructing me to bring the recent outrage upon the Turks of Douwandja to the notice of the Russian authorities, I have the honour to report that I represented the matter to the Governor of Philippopolis, General Hübsch, and that he promised to investigate it. His Excellency has since informed me that the result of his inquiries is in conformity with the facts reported in my telegram of the 14th ultimo, and that the police officer of the district in which Douwandja lies, not having been able to discover the guilty persons, and being at the same time of opinion that the Christian inhabitants of the village were not strangers to the outrage, has imposed a fine of 200 fr. on the Christian tchorbadji, and of 20 fr. on each Christian family in the village, besides offering a reward for the discovery of the criminals.

I visited Douwandja on the 17th ultimo, but was unable to ascertain any further particulars of the outrage, owing to the threatening demeanour of the Christian gipsies and Bulgarians of the village towards the Turks, and the terrified condition of the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 476.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1414.)

My Lord,

Therapia, November 14, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose extracts from a Report made to me, at my request, by the Rev. C. Hanson on the number and condition of the Mussulman refugees from the provinces occupied by the Russians now in Constantinople and the neighbourhood. They may have some interest for your Lordship. There is every reason to fear that the distress amongst these unfortunate people will be as great, if not even greater, than it was last winter, as the Turkish Government has scarcely the means of supporting them, and but little can now be expected from private charity. I have still a considerable balance at my disposal from the Baroness Burdett Coutts' "Compassionate Fund," but it will go but a little way towards the relief of so many. Mr. Charles Hanson devoted himself last winter, in the most Christian and praiseworthy manner, and at great personal risk from disease, to distributing food and clothing to the refugees. It is with a view to continuing this good work that he has been good enough to address to me the Report, of which I inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 476.

The Rev. C. Hanson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, November 13, 1878.

Sir,

IN accordance with your Excellency's instructions, I have collected the following items of information respecting the number and condition of the Mussulman refugees in and about the capital, for your Excellency's guidance in the measures for their relief which you propose recommencing for this winter.

Mr. Charles Kerr, of the Compassionate Fund staff, supplies me with the following, obtained from a member of the Imperial Refugee Committee:

Two months ago there were about 70,000 refugees in Constantinople; since that time this number has been increased to 120,000, chiefly arrivals from Batoum and Varna, and quite lately from Bosnia.

They are located as follows:—

At Municipal Cercle—		At Municipal Cercle—	
1. Sultan Bayazid	9,560	16. Yeni Mahala and Nutan ..	11,133
2. Sultan Achmet	9,222	17.	
3. Sultan Mehmet	13,178	18. Kadikeui and Monikeui ..	3,969
4. Akin-oglou Aly Basha ..	16,501	20.	
5. Eyoub	5,971	Nafé déren and Salil Sultan Ahmet	
7. Hasskeui	2,571	Toubin	3,529
10. Yenikeui	1,335		87,853
11. Therapia	226		
12. Buyukdéré	1,063	In sundry localities lately arrived, but	
13. Bebec	2,304	not yet receiving aid	32,147
14. Anatol Hissar	3,252		
15. Beyler Bey	1,949	Total	120,000

The Government allows 2 piastres caimé per day to women and children and infirm old men, to the exclusion of able-bodied men, but we have reason to believe that this allowance is paid very irregularly, and very short of the full amount.

There is not much sickness at present among the refugees considering their circumstances.

Mr. Kerr adds a calculation by which—

	Value. Piastres, good money.
50 drams of rice	0·10
1 ration of soup	20
1 oke of charcoal	10
Extras	10
	120

120 piastres good money per person might be dealt out; *i.e.*, 1,000 liras would supply 2,222 persons with each of the above rations per day for one month of thirty days, not including the expenses of distribution.

On Tuesday, the 5th November, in company with Colonel Blunt and Colonel Coope, I visited the refugee temporary settlement at Alemdagh, behind Scutari.

We there found Aly Riza Bey, a very superior, energetic, Europeanized gentleman, acting as Chief Commissioner and Superintendent of Refugees in that district of the country extending to the Black Sea, and along its shores as far as Kandra.

There were formerly 5,000 to 6,000 refugees at Alemdagh, but this number has been much reduced of late by their being removed for settlement to various places in Asia Minor and Syria.

The Government is this week sending 1,500 more to Beyrout and Damascus, when the number at Alemdagh will be reduced to about 1,500.

The condition of these refugees is miserable indeed, they receiving only halgidj oke of bread each a-day, and nothing more, and no work of any sort being provided for them in the way of charcoal-burning or wood-cutting, whereby they might obtain the addition of some little comforts, for fear of destroying unduly the Alemdagh forest.

Their huts are by no means weather-proof, and nothing is done to improve them, as the Government talks of removing all these refugees from Alemdagh by winter.

Their health is at present remarkably good, but must suffer as soon as cold and wet weather sets in.

Hospital accommodation for them is good and far more abundant than their present needs.

Aly Riza Bey has built a little village of forty houses for Circassians, named Safetié, after the present Grand Vizier, five hours distant from Alemdagh on the road to Schillé on the Black Sea, three hours further on. He has disarmed these Circassians, and all the refugees at Alemdagh, and speaks in high praise of the former as to their orderly and industrious inclinations. They have, however, nothing from the Government but half an oke of bread a-day each, and are totally without the means of cultivating the ground allotted to them.

Yesterday, 12th November, Vehby Effendi, of the Imperial Ottoman Refugee

Commission, called on me. This gentleman confirmed the number of refugees here as 120,000, which is being increased daily by new arrivals from Bosnia.

He states, the greatest wants of the refugees are in the degree of priority of articles here stated—charcoal, shoes, coverlids, clothing, rice, hospital accommodation. During the last two months 18,000 have been repatriated, of whom, however, 3,000 have been sent back by the Russians for various reasons. These latter are in extreme distress, having been struck off former relief lists and not yet replaced on them.

There is little doubt that the distress among the refugees in the capital will this winter be more intense than it was even last winter, as by this time they will have parted with what little private property they may have brought away with them, and which they last winter eked out in little additions to their ordinary ration of bread.

(Signed) C. HANSON.

No. 477.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 22.*)

(No. 1416.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Therapia, November 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Consul Blunt, reporting to me upon the manner in which the Decree of Amnesty granted by the Porte to the Provinces of Thessaly and Epirus has been carried out. My Greek colleague had complained to me that tithes had been levied from certain villages, and that persons accused of political offences had been arrested in violation of the amnesty. He begged me to instruct Mr. Blunt to remonstrate on the subject with the Turkish authorities. The information upon which M. Condouriotis' complaints were founded appears to have been not altogether trustworthy, as your Lordship will perceive by the inclosed Reports. I have called the attention of the Porte to the cases in which, in Mr. Blunt's opinion, taxes or tithes have been collected which ought to have been remitted.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 477.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, November 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch of the 12th ultimo, inclosing copy of a Memorandum which your Excellency received from the Hellenic Minister at Constantinople, relative to the conduct of the Ottoman authorities in Thessaly and Epirus, who are alleged to have levied taxes and arrested persons suspected of having taken part in the late insurrection, in violation of the Imperial Decree.

Your Excellency directs me to inquire into the matter, and, if the statements be true, to remonstrate with the Turkish authorities, and report the result to your Excellency.

I have the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a Report I have received from Mr. Longworth in answer to the inquiries which I addressed to him in regard to the alleged violation of the amnesty by the Ottoman authorities at Volo, in levying taxes from the villages of Macrinitza and Portaria; and I beg leave to add in this connection that, as the clause in the Amnesty Decree respecting the remission of taxes applies only to villages and "tchiftliks" (estates) which were burnt during the insurrection, the villages of Macrinitza and Portaria are not entitled to come under its operation, inasmuch as not one of their houses was burnt or destroyed at that time. Some of the houses and churches of the village of Macrinitza were plundered by the Turkish troops, who assaulted and captured the place from the insurgents, but not, I have been assured by impartial Greeks, to the extent it has been represented in the public press; and, on the whole, as your Excellency will gather from Mr. Longworth's Report, which confirms what I have heard from other sources, this village is in a prosperous and thriving condition.

Its olive crop is very abundant, and much above the average this year, and is now valued at about 13,000*l.*

As regards Portaria, I was not aware till I received your Excellency's despatch that this village had suffered any serious damage from the late events. When at Volo in April last I visited the place with the Commander of Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," and I then heard no complaints in this respect from the villagers; and I may add that the name of this village is not mentioned in the list of burned or damaged villages which was drawn up by the Greek Vice-Consul at Volo for the use of Mr. Longworth so far back as the month of May last.

I also inclose a Report from Colonel Synge, furnishing some information regarding the execution of the amnesty in the districts of Carditza and Tricalla, in Thessaly; and with reference to his remarks on the non-observance of the clause affecting the taxes, I beg leave to report as follows:—

A few days before I received your Excellency's despatch on the subject under consideration, deputations from the village of Rapsani, in the sub-district of Dereli, and the large "tchiftliks"—estates—of Sophades and Muscooloor, in the district of Carditza, which were plundered and burned during the insurrection, having complained to me that the Turkish authorities would not execute the promise embodied in the Amnesty Decree as regards the remission of their taxes, I waited on the Governor and pointed out to him all the evil effects which would result from its non-observance.

His Excellency assured me that he had, on more than one occasion, fully represented the matter to his immediate chief, the Governor-General of Epirus, without, however, eliciting any instructions empowering him to remit all the taxes to the burnt villages in Thessaly, in the sense proposed by Mr. Consul Merlin and myself, and in accordance with the note which the Porte addressed to the Hellenic Government through its Representative at Athens, to which I had the honour to invite your Excellency's attention in my despatch of the 6th August last.

Said Pasha distinctly told me that the Governor-General, Ahmet Russim Pasha, had confirmed his previous instructions directing him to remit the "Virgu" tax only, and to levy all the rest. This is the occasion of the telegram which I addressed to your Excellency on the 15th ultimo, worded as follows:—

"Deputations from villages burnt during insurrection complain to me that authorities levy tithe and other taxes from them. Porte having promised at amnesty arranged by me one year's remission of taxes to these villages, as explained in my Report of the 6th August last, I beg your Excellency to urge it to telegraph orders accordingly to Governor of Thessaly."

Some Christian and Turkish villages have suffered very severely from the Turkish irregulars and Greek insurgents, and the remission of their taxes to the full extent, which was proposed in my telegram to your Excellency dated Larissa, the 3rd May, 1878, will, in most cases, cover but a very small portion of their losses.

As an instance, I may mention the Christian village of Rapsani, situated on the slopes of Mount Olympus:—

Of its 400 houses, 2 churches, and 80 shops, 130 houses, 1 church, and 52 shops were sacked and burnt by the Turkish irregulars employed in driving out the Greek insurgents who had occupied the place. The total amount of taxes due this year by Rapsani is estimated at about 300*l.*, the whole of which is being levied, with the exception of 50*l.* for "Virgu," or property tax, which has been remitted.

In the case of the Turkish villages which suffered to an equal extent from the Greek insurgents, all the taxes, including even the "Virgu," I am told, have been levied.

They are entitled, on every ground of justice, right, and morality, to be exempted, just as much as the Christians, from the payment of these taxes.

With respect to the other provisions of the Amnesty Decree, your Excellency will be glad to learn that they are impartially carried out by the provincial authorities. No arrests that I have heard of have been made of persons suspected of having taken part in the late insurrection in Thessaly. Many notorious brigands, who had been recruited by the Hellenic Defence Committees for the purpose of creating disturbances in this frontier province, rejected the amnesty and continued in their old haunts and evil pursuits, inflicting, as I have reported in previous despatches, incalculable injuries on the Christian and Mahommedan inhabitants.

Some of these desperate characters, men who have carried off hostages and levied heavy ransoms from them, who have tortured old women by burning their breasts with boiling water or oil, who have murdered many innocent persons, and committed innumerable acts of arson and robbery, have been pursued and shot down by the Turkish troops, in some instances by the Christian peasants; and others have been captured, tried, and condemned to different terms of imprisonment with hard labour.

I have requested Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney to report upon the manner in which the authorities are carrying out the Amnesty Decree in the Province of Epirus, and shall forward his Report to your Excellency immediately it reaches me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 477.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Volo, October 28, 1878.

Sir,

I BEG to acknowledge your despatch of the 19th instant, inclosing, for my perusal, a Memorandum addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador by the Hellenic Minister at Constantinople.

With respect to this subject, I beg to furnish you with the following information:—

There seems to exist in these parts some doubt as to the nature of the remission of one year's taxes promised by the Porte for the pacification of this province. Although this exemption in the conditions of this amnesty is distinctly stated to extend to those who have had their houses destroyed by the insurrection, yet I find that the general supposition here is that it also includes those who have suffered directly or indirectly in these recent troubles.

During the insurrectionary events, no houses whatever had been burned in the villages of the district of Volo, and particularly in Macrinitza and Portaria, where no traces could I detect of even recent hostilities during a visit expresely taken to ascertain the amount of actual suffering. These villages were tranquil and prosperous, and the inhabitants were once more in pursuit of their ordinary occupations.

The question is also raised as to whether the people have the means to meet the demands of the Government.

It is true that, owing to the suspense of all work, the poorer classes had been reduced during last winter, spring, and the early part of summer, to a state of semi-starvation, but it is equally true that this most appalling condition of indigence has been almost completely alleviated, partly by subscriptions from Athens, Trieste, and London, and partly by the reopening of the branches of industry, and the consequent demand for manual labour. It is now, therefore, only the extremely young, infirm, and old who still remain in absolute want and wretchedness.

Those of Macrinitza and Portaria number about fifty, who should rather be termed paupers than sufferers, as they are, and have been for some time back, entirely dependent on public charity.

The abundance of this year's olive crop will help considerably to improve the condition of the people. To show what this produce is expected to be, if not destroyed by a drought, I need only say that no less than 26,000 Turkish lire has been already offered for the purchase of its tithe, a sum exceeding by 8,000*l.* the largest yet obtained for the olive crop of the district (of Volo).

In the following Table an abstract is given (approximately) of the principal revenues derived from the villages of Macrinitza and Portaria.

Description of Taxes.	Macrinitza.	Portaria.
	Turkish lire.	Turkish lire.
Virgu	530	200
Bedel	620	390
Ressumat	270	80
Ashar (tithe)	900	380
Ashar zeitoun (olive tithe)	750	600
Jelep (sheep and goat tax)	240	..
Total	3,370	1,650

The irregular impositions paid during the last year and a half have been levied in so desultory and incomplete a manner that it is scarcely possible to ascertain their respective amounts. They consist of, firstly, the Government loan; secondly, the supply of military horses or substitute in money; thirdly, the sum for military clothing; and fourthly, the double levy of the "Ressumat," "Virgu," and "Jelep" taxes.

I should also mention that the inhabitants of Macrinitza complained to me of a tax raised for the last three years on the bark they use for tanning hide. It is a tithe which, owing to the numerous tanneries in the village, amounts to an annual sum of from 250*l.* to 300*l.*

I have been assured that this tax is levied exclusively in the district of Volo, and in no other portion of the Turkish Empire.

In concluding this Report, I have to state that as regards the district of Volo, no persons have been arrested by the local authorities for having taken part in the late insurrection.

The following are the names and offences of those who had been seized and imprisoned since May last:—

1. Yanni Mitro, of Tchanli, for acts of brigandage.
2. Manoli Tchatzo, of Skamia, also for acts of brigandage.
3. Zaffiri Carariga, of Milièss, for murder.
4. Zissi Iconomidi, of Ayios Lavrent, for harbouring brigands.
5. Achilles Stefo-Yorghi, of Ayios Lavrent, for burning the warehouse of a Greek in village of Lehonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 477.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Tricalla, October 27, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in compliance with your instructions, dated Larissa, 19th October, 1878, I have inquired as to the carrying out of the clauses of the amnesty, more particularly referring to the collection of taxes from the burned villages, and beg to inform you that the tithes for the current year have been claimed and partially collected from those villages, thereby causing considerable discontent and dissatisfaction.

I subjoin a Return showing the quantity of tithes so claimed in districts of Carditza and Tricalla, from which it will appear that the called-for payments are not worth the dissatisfaction they will cause.

The other clauses of the amnesty as regards the districts I have recently visited, viz., Pharsala, Carditza, and Tricalla, and the sub-districts of Domoko, &c., are carried out with integrity:—

RETURN showing tithes claimed from burned villages in Carditza and Tricalla.

Turkish Villages.	Christian Villages.	Tithes claimed in Constantinople.			Remarks.
		Wheat.	Barley.	Maize.	
		Kilog.	Kilog.	Kilog.	
District of Carditza—					
Bazaraki	Bazaraki	Nil	Nil	Nil	Turkish half only burned. Crops destroyed.
Kalkal	.. ..	..	..	..	Village commune. Crops destroyed.
Karajah	.. ..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Aslanlar	.. ..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Omerler	.. ..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Hadji Omerler ..	.. ..	..	..	..	Ditto.
Karadar	.. ..	10	..	..	Ditto.
Pashali	.. ..	..	..	..	Ditto.
	Moscolour	271	6	Nil	Tchiftlik property.
	Maturinga	154	Nil	250	Probable, but not yet measured.
	Sophades	615	55	Nil	Tchiftlik property.
	Pyrgo-Maturanga ..	48	Nil	Nil	Ditto.
	Mavromati	..	..	..	Government tchiftlik.
	Misaki	..	..	..	Ditto.
	Muslee	..	..	..	Deserted. No crops.
District of Tricalla ..	Porta	Nil	Nil	37	Village commune; 600 prs. also claimed for tithes on crops.

The above titles, at present value, represent about 400*l*.
In accordance with the promises of the Porte these claims should be remitted.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY SYNGE.

No. 478.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 22.*)

(No. 1417. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of Prince Labanoff's reply to the Note of the Porte, complaining of the destruction of Mussulman villages by the Bulgarians in the district of Demotica. This document has been given to me very confidentially.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 478.

Prince Labanow to Safvet Pasha.

Pera, le [illegible] *1878.*

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir les notes de votre Altesse en date du 29 Octobre et du 6 et 7 Novembre, concernant les désordres qui ont eu lieu dans le district de Dimotika, et je n'ai pas manqué d'en communiquer aussitôt le contenu à M. le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée Impériale.

Les renseignements que vient de me fournir M. le Commandant me permettent de rétablir la vérité, qui semble avoir été singulièrement altérée dans les rapports parvenus à la Porte.

Les faits sur lesquels votre Altesse a cru devoir appeler mon attention se sont en réalité passés de la manière suivante :—

Le 27 Septembre, lorsque les troupes Impériales dans leur mouvement de retraite quittèrent la ligne de Constantinople, Gallipoli, et Dédé Agatch, le village de Buyuk Derbend, situé dans les Montagnes de Rhodope, fut évacué par elles. Le lendemain une bande de Bachi-Bozouks, ayant à leur tête un nommé Papchieh Oglou, Ali Mollah, occupaient Derbend, et, d'accord avec les Musulmans des villages environnants, commencèrent à piller les maisons Bulgares. Ils massacrèrent à cette occasion trois Bulgares, et enlevèrent 3,000 moutons et plus de 500 bœufs et mulets.

Les Bulgares, saisis de terreur, se sauvèrent à Dimotika et vinrent demander aide et assistance aux autorités locales Russes. Une escorte de vingt-quatre Cosaques leur ayant été donnée, ils se mirent en marche pour leur village afin de sauver au moins une partie de leur avoir. En s'approchant de Demir Euren, sur le chemin de Buyuk Derbend, les Bulgares ainsi que les Cosaques furent rencontrés par des Bachi-Bozouks armés, qui les forcèrent à revenir sur leurs pas, et tuèrent sous les yeux mêmes des Cosaques un Bulgare et en blessa un autre.

Le Commandant des troupes Russes, qui se trouvait à Dimotika, ayant eu connaissance de ce fait, envoya immédiatement deux compagnies d'infanterie qui occupèrent Demir Euren, malgré la résistance des Bachi-Bozouks. Les Musulmans s'enfuyaient en abandonnant le bétail qu'ils avaient volé aux Bulgares de Buyuk Derbend. Il ressort de cet exposé que les désordres qui ont eu lieu à Buyuk Derbend, et à Demir Euren, ont été excités par les Musulmans, qui ont attaqué et dépouillé les Bulgares. Ces malfaiteurs parcouraient par bandes le pays récemment évacué par les troupes Russes, et répandaient partout la désolation et la terreur, et poussaient l'audace jusqu'à franchir la ligne des avant-postes Russes.

Une pareille situation ne pouvait être tolérée ; la complète inaction des autorités Ottomanes obligea le Commandant Russe à prendre, lui-même, des mesures énergiques pour rétablir la sécurité dans tous ces parages et infliger un châtiment aux fauteurs de désordre. A la suite des dispositions qu'il jugea nécessaire de prendre, Demir Euren fut réoccupé. Une colonne volante refoula de ce village ainsi que de Buyuk Derbend les Bachi-Bozouks, qui eurent dans cette rencontre trois morts et deux prisonniers. Une autre colonne, sous le commandment du Colonel Bibikow, fut envoyée le 19 courant contre les villages Musulmans, Mesenler, Koukuli, Kevzkeui, et Napkeui,

ou s'étaient réfugiés plus de 200 Bachi-Bozouks. Ces villages furent occupés par le détachement Russe après un combat qui força les Bachi-Bozouks à se disperser en laissant quelques morts sur le champ de bataille. Vingt et un autres Bachi-Bozouks furent délogés des hauteurs de Napkeui par les Cosaques à pied.

Le but de l'expédition ayant été atteint, le Général Todleben a ordonné au Colonel Bibikow de se replier, et a décidé, en même temps, que la ligne de démarcation des troupes Impériales passerait dorénavant par les villages de Sofoulou, Demir Euren, et Buyuk Derbend.

Pendant tout ce temps les autorités Ottomanes n'ont rien fait pour arrêter ces désordres. Leur coupable tolérance a servi d'encouragement à ces malfaiteurs, et c'est sur elles que doit tomber en entier la responsabilité que la Sublime Porte voudrait faire peser sur les autorités Russes.

Afin de vérifier l'exactitude de ces renseignements il dépend, sans doute, de la Sublime Porte de faire une enquête rigoureuse sur la conduite des autorités et de la population Musulmane dans le pays évacué par les troupes Russes ; mais on ne saurait, sans porter atteinte au principe posé dans l'Article XXVI du Traité de San Stéfano, étendre cette enquête aux localités encore occupées par les troupes Impériales.

J'aime à croire que les explications qui précèdent démontreront à votre Altesse qu'il n'y a aucun mouvement insurrectionnel dans les faits que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui exposer, et, par conséquence, aucune contradiction entre ces faits et les assurances dont j'ai dernièrement eu l'ordre de me rendre l'organe auprès de la Sublime Porte. Les intentions du Gouvernement Impérial n'ont pas varié, les autorités Russes ont l'ordre formel de ne rien négliger pour maintenir l'ordre et la tranquillité dans les pays occupés par les troupes Impériales, et en cas de nécessité, de sévir contre les coupables sans tenir aucun compte de leur nationalité ou de leur religion.

Il ne reste qu'à désirer que des ordres péremptoires conçus dans le même sens soient renouvelés par la Sublime Porte aux autorités Ottomanes afin que dans le sphère de leur activité elles cherchent à empêcher dès l'origine toute tentative destinée à troubler la tranquillité publique.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) LABANOW.

No. 479.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 22.*)

(No. 1418.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 15, 1878*

I HAVE the honour to inclose an extract from a private letter addressed to me by Captain Trotter with reference to the delimitation of the new frontiers between Russia and Turkey in Armenia. It appears to me that the observations of Captain Trotter on this subject are not undeserving of your Lordship's attention.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 479.

Captain Trotter to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Extract.) *Trebizond, November 1, 1878.*

I AM immensely surprised at seeing what was pointed out to me by the Russian Secretary of Commission, M. Emilianow, that no provision was made either in the Treaty of Berlin or in the Protocols for the appointment of an English Boundary Commission for any part of the new frontier except the comparatively unimportant section of the Alishgird Valley. Inferentially, it may be supposed that it was intended to employ an English officer on the Khotour boundary, and the Russians have accordingly appointed two separate Commissions, the one under General Ibbintzky, to delineate the Batoum to Alishgird portion of the line, the other under Colonel Mahma, to delineate the Alishgird and Khotour boundaries ; and I presume that Government, even if they have not already done so, will very shortly nominate a Commissioner for the latter boundaries. On the other hand, the line from the Alishgird northwards to Batoum is so much more important strategically, and from my own knowledge the existing

maps of the country are so utterly unreliable and inaccurate, a fact which will probably give rise to much dispute during the settlement of the boundary, that I cannot help thinking that I may be labouring under a misapprehension, and that Government does intend to make provision for the English Government being represented on the delimitation of the most important portions of the new Asiatic frontier.

The Turkish Sub-Commissioner for the Alishgird-Khotour boundary, Daghes Effendi, is said to have already left Erzeroum for Kars; the Head Commissioner, however, remains here awaiting orders from Constantinople.

Although little can be done before the winter sets in, there is no doubt that it will be to the great advantage of the districts concerned if some temporary line of delimitation can be fixed upon at an early date.

My first inquiries on arriving at Erzeroum will be directed to the actually existing status on the frontier, and I will then write officially on the subject. Meanwhile, the matter appears to be of such importance, that to save time I have written this hurried note to catch the French steamer which leaves this afternoon.

No. 480.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1420.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 15, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Consuls and Vice-Consuls at Adrianople, Larissa, Salonica, Prevesa, Gallipoli, Bourgas, Varna, and Philippopolis.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 480.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Adrianople, November 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that the emigration of Christian inhabitants from the evacuated districts has much slackened. After several days cessation there was, on the 6th instant, a further influx of 1,100 persons from the districts lying towards Dédéagatch; but this is believed to have been a final effort, and the exodus is considered by the Russian authorities themselves as now practically at an end. The Turkish authorities have stopped it everywhere in the reoccupied districts.

I beg leave to inclose a tabular statement showing the movement by railway, day by day, since the 28th September, when it commenced. As this statement gives only the number of waggons and the stations from which the emigrants took the rail and to which they were booked, the information it furnishes as to the number of persons and the places from which they originally came, with those of their ultimate destination, is approximate only. It will also be observed that whereas a great proportion of the emigrants stayed here several days before being sent on, the dates of departure from Adrianople are alone given.

Each waggon being calculated to have conveyed 40 persons, the total of 459 waggons would give 18,360 souls. Allowing for the fraction who travelled by road, that figure agrees nearly enough with the information which I have obtained from an authentic Russian source, and according to which the total number of Christian refugees who have come here and gone on, by rail and by road, up to yesterday, was 20,222.

I learn from the same Russian source the following particulars on this subject:—

The mass of the emigrants have proceeded to the Eastern Balkan districts, Yeni-Zaghra, Eski-Zaghra, Yamboli, &c. A certain proportion of the Bulgarians begged for and obtained permission to settle in the district of Sofia, where they have been welcomed by their fellow countrymen. According to the same informant, the proportion of Greek to Bulgarian refugees has been very inconsiderable. The refugees travelled by rail free of charge, and, as a general rule, they avowedly carried with

them a large quantity of properly plundered from the Turks. Although a fair allowance of baggage was also taken free, the quantity was in most cases largely exceeded, and the possessors readily produced the money charged for that excess.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 480.

[This Inclosure not for B.B.]

TABULAR STATEMENT showing the Movement by Railway of Christian Emigrants from the districts evacuated by the Russian Army.

Place of Departure. — Railway Stations.	Line of Railway.	Date of Departure from Adrianople.	Number of Wagons.	Destination. — Railway Stations.
		1878		
Muradli-Keupekli	Constantinople	September 28	40	Philippopolis.
,, ...	,, ...	,, 29	20	Yeni-Zaghra.
Tchataldja	,, ...	,, 30	15	Mustapha-Pasha.
,, ...	,, ...	October 4	40	,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, 5	18	Yeni-Zaghra.
Priolo-Kioi	,, ...	,, 7	30	Yamboli.
,, ...	,, ...	,, 9	14	,,
San Stefano	,, ...	,, 12	25	Philippopolis.
,, ...	,, ...	,, 18	17	,,
Ferrédjik	Dédéagatch	,, 22	10	Yamboli.
Ouzoun-Keupri	Constantinople	,, 24	15	,,
,, ...	,, ...	,, 28	7	Yeni-Mahallé.
Ferrédjik	Dédéagatch	,, 30	45	Yamboli.
,, ...	,, ...	November 2	38	,,
Ouzoun-Kéupri	Constantinople	,, 4	15	Philippopolis.
Bidigli	Dédéagatch	,, 5	40	Yeni-Zaghra.
Ferrédjik	,, ...	,, 6	50	Yamboli.
(Not stated)	.. ..	,, 7	20	Yeni-Zaghra.
	Total	..	459*	

* At 40 persons per wagon, 18,360 persons.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT, *Acting Consul.*
Adrianople, November 8, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 480.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Adrianople, November 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to communicate to your Excellency the following information, which has been given to me, under the seal of secrecy, by a person whom I believe to be trustworthy, who is in a position to know the facts he relates, and who could have no conceivable interest in misleading me:—

One Ali Youssuf Bey, a native of Dibra (in Albania), is employed in the Russian Civil Service here. This person was brought up in the Military School at Constantinople, and, besides being a skilled writer of Turkish, is said to be well acquainted with French and other languages. He was holding some appointment in the Vilayet of Janina during the late war, when, owing, it is said, to misconduct, he found it advisable to seek refuge with the enemies of his country, who have given him employment in connection with the Diplomatic Chancellerie of the Commander-in-chief, with a salary of 30 pols a month.

According to my informant, Ali Youssuf Bey has of late been engaged, with a Christian associate, in writing, to order, a Turkish pamphlet, with the object of showing the advantage that would accrue to Turkey through an alliance with Russia, and the contrary results to be expected from an Anglo-Turkish alliance. The pamphlet, which is of some length, has been printed in the former Government printing office of the Vilayet of Adrianople, and was ready for distribution a week ago.

It bears the title of "The Book of Common Talk at Pesth," and professes to have been printed at that place. It is, of course, anonymous.

Among other arguments used in the pamphlet, it is pointed out that if Turkey places herself "under the wing" of Russia, her interests and integrity will doubtless be respected, as have been those of Persia, who has done so. The prospect is also held out to Turkey of obtaining, through Russian help, supremacy in India, and that "she will then see her ships sailing in the ocean." It is also intimated that the deposition of Sultan Abdul Aziz was brought about through the machinations of English Agents.

A limited number of copies have been printed, as the pamphlet is, it appears, intended for private distribution only. For the present a single copy is to be sent to each of the following destinations:—

To the Palace, to the Minister of Police at Constantinople, and to certain Agents in Macedonia, Albania, and at Pesth.

All these copies were, I am told, to be addressed to the Turkish Minister of Police, and entrusted to him for delivery. They had not yet been dispatched five days ago, and my informant believes, though he cannot speak positively on this point, that they still await a suitable messenger.

I am in hopes of obtaining a copy of this interesting work shortly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 480.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, October 20, 1878.

Sir,

IN my despatch of the 20th July last relative to Ali Saïb Pasha's command in Thessaly and Macedonia, I reported to your Excellency that the army in Thessaly was composed at that date of 30 battalions of infantry, 2 regiments of cavalry, and 6 batteries of artillery (2 field and 4 mountain).

I have now the honour to further report to your Excellency that this army has been reinforced within the last month by 12 battalions of infantry, half a regiment of cavalry, and 3 batteries of artillery (1 field and 2 mountain); and that further reinforcements of 18 battalions of infantry and 3 batteries of artillery have been promised by the War Office, and will be dispatched to Volo as soon as the necessary transports are available.

The troops now in Thessaly are distributed as follows:—

	Battalions.
Armyro	9
Volo	3
Domoko .. .. *	4
Carditza	11
Tricalla	6
Larissa	4
Allossam	2
Dereli	1
Ayia (Yenidjé)	1
Total	41

Of the 2½ regiments of cavalry, 1 is quartered at Larissa, 1 is employed in patrolling the plain districts, and the remainder is detached for orderly duty and escorts. The 9 batteries of artillery are distributed among the head stations, but I have not been able to learn in what proportion to each station.

The following changes and appointments have been made among the superior officers in Thessaly:—

Emin Pasha, Liva, takes the command of the troops at Carditza, in succession to Schereff Pasha, Liva, appointed President of the "Idareh" Medjliss, or Military Administrative Council at Larissa. Muhliss Pasha, Ferik, second in command in Thessaly, will assume the chief command of the divisions at Carditza and Tricalla. Abdullah Pasha, Liva, Commander of the troops at Caraferia and Catterina in Macedonia, goes as Commandant of the garrison at Volo; and Ali Pasha, Liva, is appointed President of the "Urfieh" Military Court-martial at Larissa, in the room of Colonel Emin Bey. The Livas, Iskender Pasha, Hassan Pasha, and Ahmet Pasha respectively, retain their commands at Armyro, Domoko, and Tricalla.

The forces in Macedonia, which are also included in the command of Ali Saïb

sha, are being considerably reinforced; they now consist, I am told, of 38 battalions of infantry and 4 batteries of artillery, distributed as follows:—

Twenty-three battalions, with 2 batteries of artillery, in districts of Salonica and Serres, under the orders of Shevket Pasha (Ferik); * 6½ battalions, with 1 battery of artillery, in districts of Cozana and Monastir, under Ferik Saïb Pasha; 8½ battalions, with 1 battery of artillery, at Catterina and Caraferia, on northern slopes of Mount Olympus, under Hassan Tefik Pasha (Liva). In all, 38 battalions and 4 batteries of artillery.

I am informed by the Commander-in-chief that the army in Macedonia will in a few days be reinforced by a further contingent of 6 battalions of infantry and 1 battery of field artillery.

It is not easy to estimate with accuracy the effective strength of the two armies in Thessaly and Macedonia.

The full complement of a Turkish battalion is about 840 men and officers; but the strength of many of the battalions in both provinces has been sensibly reduced in the late war, and while some have their proper complement others do not number more than 200 men each, some even less than that. Thus of the 6 battalions which arrived at Volo from Constantinople on the 23rd instant the first had 175 men, the second 100, the third 200, and the fourth 425; the fifth and sixth had 600 men each, including officers. From all I have been told by competent authorities on the spot, the average of the present effective strength of the battalions in Ali Saïb Pasha's command is about 600 men for each battalion, including officers. According to this estimate the 41 battalions in Thessaly represent a force of 24,600 men, and the 38 battalions in Macedonia 22,800 men, or a total effective force in both provinces of 47,400 infantry, besides 1,150 cavalry and 1,340 artillerymen.

Iskender Pasha the Liva, who commands at Armyro, has fortified the hills in the vicinity of that town, and about three miles from the Greek border; and I am informed by Colonel Synge, who has recently visited Domoco, that batteries have been raised with considerable skill on small hills about 300 feet high, to the north and north-west of that place. The works there are all of stone faced with earth, the latter being scarce, and, although there are few guns mounted in them, excellent roads have been made, by which they could speedily be brought up. The position of Domoco (Thaumaco) is one of great importance and considerable strength; it commands the main roads leading to Lamia in Greece, and to Larissa and Carditza in Thessaly, passing on either side of the "Taoukli" Lake.

There is not much sickness at present among the troops in Thessaly; many of the battalions have received new clothing, of which they were sadly in need; they are well supplied with ammunition, and, on the whole, are well-cared for in the matter of food. However, from all I hear, the authorities anticipate great difficulties in providing sufficient supplies for these troops during the approaching winter, owing to the growing scarcity of wheat and forage; money also is very scarce, and the provincial Treasury is unable to satisfy the requisitions constantly made on it by the military authorities.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 5 in No. 480.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, October 30, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of three telegrams which I addressed to your Excellency dated respectively the 19th, 26th, and 30th instant, relative to the Bulgarian insurrectionary movement in the north of Macedonia.

According to the meagre information which has been received here from the Turkish authorities at Salonica and Serres, it appears that the Bulgarian insurgents from district of Kustendil in numerous bands, estimated at from 1,000 to 2,000 men each, have occupied in force Djuma, and have come down the valley of the Strymon, as far as Krasna-Gora, burning on the way six Turkish villages, and succeeded in surrounding and cutting up four companies of Turkish troops, which had been dispatched to the assistance of the latter.

A telegram from Ibrahim Pasha, the Liva in command of the troops at Serres,

* Replaced by Salih Pasha.—(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

dated the 25th instant, states that large bands of these insurgents are also concentrating upon Petrich (Petrowitsch in Kiepert's map).

There is a large Bulgarian population in the districts between Kustendil and Serres, and unless the Government acts with prudence and energy the movement may assume very serious dimensions, and be followed by the same acts of savagery which disgraced the late war.

The Turkish and Greek population in Serres and other places in the vicinity of the disturbances is naturally agitated and alarmed by the course of events, and has sent very pressing appeals for protection to the authorities at Salonica and the Commander-in-chief here. The latter has ordered the Ferik Salih Pasha, who is to assume the command at Salonica in the room of Shevket Pasha, to concentrate all the disposable troops upon Serres and Melnik, and hopes that with the six battalions of infantry which arrived at Salonica yesterday a sufficient force will soon be available in those parts to meet the emergency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 6 in No. 480.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Larissa, October* 26, 1878.

ACCORDING to cyphered telegrams received yesterday by Commander-in-chief here from civil and military authorities at Salonica, the aspect of affairs in Bulgarian districts of Macedonia is very serious.

Formidable bands of Bulgarian insurgents from Bulgaria proper are concentrating at Petrich, in province of Serres, and the Bulgarian peasants in that and contiguous districts are joining the movement.

Four companies of Turkish troops have been surrounded and annihilated by the insurgents; and the Turkish authorities of Salonica are very anxious, and urge the dispatch of strong reinforcements.

Shevket Pasha, who commands at Salonica, will proceed the day after to-morrow to the scene of disturbances.

Six more battalions of infantry arrived at Volo from Constantinople on the 23rd instant.

Inclosure 7 in No. 480.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Larissa, October* 30, 1878.

LIEUTENANT-GENERAL (Ferik) SALIH PASHA has been appointed to the command of the troops at Salonica, and will direct operations against Bulgarian insurgents in Macedonia.

Shevket Pasha is appointed to the command at Monastir.

Six battalions of infantry arrived at Salonica yesterday from Constantinople, and more daily expected.

Inclosure 8 in No. 480.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Larissa, October* 19, 1878.

OFFICIAL telegram of yesterday's date from Salonica states that 2,000 Bulgarian rebels from district of Djuma have made an irruption into district of Serres, and are destroying Turkish villages.

Ottoman troops have been sent against them.

Inclosure 9 in No. 480.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, November* 2, 1878.

WITH reference to my despatch of the 29th ultimo relative to the military forces stationed in Thessaly and Macedonia, their numbers and distribution, and the changes which have taken place in connection with them, I have the honour to inclose a Report which I received this morning from Mr. Longworth, furnishing an account of the number of troops, guns, horses, and military stores which have been disembarked at Volo between the 10th and 30th ultimo, and of which the following is a summary:—

Men	7,000
Cases of cartridges	5,250
Martini rifles	6,000
Horses	347
Krupp guns	6
Barrels of gunpowder	40
Cases of cannon-balls	7
Tents	400
Bales of clothing	400
Boxes of regimental books	20

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 10 in No. 480.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Larissa, November* 6, 1878.

ON the 3rd instant I telegraphed to your Excellency as follows:—

"Further intelligence received this morning from Salonica states that only 2 companies, composed of 123 men, and not 4 companies, as previously reported, were surrounded by Bulgarian insurgents near Melnik; 6 killed, 9 wounded; remainder surrendered, and were taken within Russian lines in district of Djuma, where they are now detained as prisoners by Russian authorities."

The Commander-in-chief here considers that the detention of the Turkish soldiers as prisoners of war, under the circumstances stated in the above telegram, is indicative of Russian connivance at the Bulgarian insurrectionary movements in Macedonia.

Salih Pasha, who forwarded this information, has also sent to the Commander-in-chief the translations of two letters which have been recently addressed by Bulgarian insurgent Chiefs to Turkish villages in the Province of Drama; and of which I venture to take the liberty to forward copies to your Excellency, as they are characteristic of the doings of these insurgents, and may throw some light on their proceedings in connection with the Russian occupation of Eastern Roumelia.

According to the most recent telegrams received here from Salih Pasha at Salonica, and from the Governor of Drama, the Bulgarian insurgents have attacked and plundered several Turkish villages in district of Ahi-Tchelebi, and carried off a large quantity of cattle and sheep. The Governor of Drama having asked for reinforcements, the Commander-in-chief has ordered Salih Pasha to dispatch to the spot a battalion from the garrison of Salonica.

Shevket Pasha, who has recently been replaced by Salih Pasha, having sent in his resignation, has been ordered by the Serraskier to proceed to his command at Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 11 in No. 480.

Mr. Longworth to Consul Blunt.

Volo, October 31, 1878.

Sir,

IN connection with my despatch of the 17th instant I beg to furnish you with a further report on the arrival of more troops, ammunition, &c., from Constantinople, which took place in the following succession:—

Arrived 19th October, Ottoman ship of war "Salonica," 40 men, 2 guns. Disembarked at Volo: 150 sick soldiers, 50 cases cartridges, 20 boxes regimental books.

Arrived 23rd October, Ottoman ship of war "Esseri Djedid," 120 men, 8 guns. Disembarked at Volo: 3 battalions (1,650 men), 200 cases ammunition, 400 bales clothing.

Arrived 24th October, Ottoman ship of war "Hondavendighiar," Captain Hassan Bey, 200 men, 20 guns. Disembarked at Armyro: 2 battalions (1,500 men), 500 Martini rifles.

Disembarked at Volo: 1,800 cases cartridges, 92 artillery horses, 7 pack-horses, 6 Krupp field-pieces, 40 barrels gunpowder, 7 cases cannon-balls, 400 tents.

Arrived 28th October, Ottoman ship of war "Caisseri," Captain Mustapha Bey, 90 men, 3 guns. Disembarked at Volo: 2,000 cases cartridges, 100 pack-horses.

Arrived 30th October, Ottoman ship of war "Osmanieh," Captain Ali Bey, 600 men, 23 guns. Disembarked at Volo: 4 battalions (2,500 men), 1,200 cases cartridges, 150 pack-horses.

Of these troops three battalions, numbering 1,650 men, have been dispatched to Catherina by sea and overland; the rest, I am told, are to be sent on to Larissa as soon as possible.

Muhliss Pasha has come here to superintend the removal of the troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. LONGWORTH.

Inclosure 12 in No. 480.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Larissa, November 8, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of a Report from Colonel Synge furnishing some information on the state of affairs in the districts of Pharsala, Carditza, and Tricalla, which he has recently visited.

He gives particulars relative to the murder perpetrated at Zarkoe about five weeks ago by a Mulazim and two soldiers, as reported by me at the time, in my despatch of the 28th September last to your Excellency.

The facts of this case, so far as they can be gathered at present, show that the murder was a deliberate and atrocious one, the motive of it being greed of gain, and go far to criminate the Mulazim and two soldiers. These have been arrested and put in irons, and now await their trial by court-martial.

I have the satisfaction to report to your Excellency that there has been a sensible decrease of brigand acts during the last month; the districts of Volo, Armyro, and Pharsala are now comparatively free from brigands. In Allassona and the country on this side of Mount Olympus several bands have been dispersed, and better order is now maintained; in the districts of Carditza and Tricalla, which, owing to their mountainous features and their proximity to the border, have always been the focus of brigandage, there are still some formidable bands roaming about, who, when pursued and hard pressed by the Turkish troops, seek relaxation in Greece, where, by all accounts, they are permitted to remain at large, and can avail themselves of the first favourable opportunity to return and resume their depredations; and I regret having to add that, according to the reports received here by the Turkish authorities, there is strong reason to suspect that the Hellenic frontier guards not only passively allow these bands to pass into Greece when hard pressed, but also in other respects encourage, or connive at, their proceedings.

I inclose a summary, in translation of the Report which Emin Pasha, the Commandant of Carditza, addressed, on the 2nd instant, to the Commander-in-chief here relative to the subject referred to in the last paragraph of my telegram of this morning to your Excellency, worded as follows:—

"Commander of forces here telegraphed to Porte this morning that Hellenic border-troops have designedly fired upon Turkish patrol pursuing brigands in Turkish territory, killing one and wounding two men. Patrol retired without returning fire."

The Turkish officer in command of the detachment acted with forbearance, and I believe the Commander-in-chief has approved of his conduct; but it is apprehended that the Turkish troops along the frontier will not always evince the same temper and self-control under the recurrence of similar provocations.

I am told that his Excellency has sent a letter to the Hellenic Consul here furnishing him the particulars of the late incidents, and calling his attention to the serious responsibility the Hellenic border authorities incur by such proceedings.

He has also, I believe, telegraphed on the subject to the Ottoman Minister at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 13 in No. 480.

(No. 1.)—*Translation from the Russian and Bulgarian of a Letter dated October* $\frac{17}{29}$, *and signed "Captain Georgevich."*

To the Headmen of the villages of Gradinitza (?) and Yaseltcha (?).

WE have long been expecting to hear from you about concluding an armistice, but you seem to neglect this. We have no intention to shed blood, or to ruin anyone in future; and as we are not of those who do so, we call upon you to send to us two of the Mahommedan soldiers and one Yuzbashi, who are in your villages, with some of the principal villagers, in order to come to some definite terms as to whether we are to have war or peace.

(No. 2.)—*Translation from the Russian and Bulgarian of a Letter (no date) addressed to the Imam, Muhtar and Ihtiar Medjliss, of the Village of Soyin Deressi (?).*

With the present I send you my salaams.

The limits of the Sandjak of Philippopolis extend as far as Totour Kurjin Haliyeye (?), and belong to Russia. If you dispute this we shall go to Philippopolis; but if you deliver up your arms no one's nose shall bleed.

Our orders to you are from the Russians. We shall go as far as Kaintchali (?). Our duty is to inform you and be relieved of all sin; but if you want to fight the sin be upon you, and you will suffer the same fate as the village of Softishta. All the villages will burn. I give you notice.

Topal Mehmed will bring you this letter, by whom you must send your answer here within five hours. Take notice of all this.

(Signed) CAPTAIN SOTIR, *Russian Commandant.*
CAPTAIN NICO.

Note.—Governor of Drama states that both Sotir and Nico are natives of Province of Drama, and notorious brigands.

Inclosure 14 in No. 480.

Colonel Synge to Consul Blunt.

Larissa, November 2, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have recently visited the districts of Pharsala, Carditza, Tricalla, and Tirnova.

With the exception of the claim for tithes from the villages exempted by the amnesty, which causes considerable discontent, the provisions are generally carried out.

The behaviour of the troops gives no cause of discontent to the inhabitants.

From the Carditza district some 3,000 sheep and several hundred head of cattle

have been stolen and driven over the border into Greece. On the night of the 12th September a band of brigands, well-armed, and accompanied by a trumpeter, made a descent on the Christian village of Capoujee, near Carditza, and carried off 1,700 sheep belonging to sixteen of the villagers. The brigands sent word on the following day that they might be ransomed on payment of 25 piastres per head and some forty suits of clothing, the articles of which they specified, amongst others, "fustanellas," which were to be of 400 folds. These terms being beyond the means of the villagers, the sheep were driven into Greece.

The Mukhtar of Capoujee, accompanied by five of the other sheep-owners, taking a letter from the Pasha at Carditza, went to Lamia in Greece, and, separating, visited other districts in search of their property. They state that they found several of the sheep, but were unable to recover any of them, every obstacle being put in their way, and finally they returned with nothing but the loss of their time and expenses.

These and similar occurrences, together with the hardships caused by the present state of affairs, tend to cause a reaction in the feelings of the population, becoming more developed from day to day. The villagers living near the proposed new frontier fear much for themselves a repetition of what has occurred to the dwellers on the present frontier from the raids of 1854, 1866, and 1878.

The troops sent to Carditza under Mukhtar Pasha have occupied the Rendina district, but it is not probable that any great number of the families of that locality will return to their homes before the spring, or such time as the allowance made to them in Greece may be discontinued.

On my way back to Larissa I visited Zarkoe, and there made inquiries in accordance with your request concerning the case of murder which recently occurred there.

It would appear that a certain man named Margariti, whose father is a tradesman at Zarkoe, and possessed of a considerable quantity of live stock, went on the 27th September to visit the flocks. On his way he encountered a body of troops under a Mulazim, who, seeing that he was bearing arms, arrested him and kept him in confinement. His father, who went in search of him, met the troops on the following day, and the Mulazim stated that he had released him, but as he did not return to his home search was made, and his corpse was found shot through the head and partially covered with stones.

It seems he was in possession of some 30 liras which he had on his person, and which he had stolen from his father's business.

The Mulazim and others of the troops are in prison awaiting further inquiries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. SYNGE.

Inclosure 15 in No. 480.

Summary of a Report from Emin Pasha, Commandant of Carditza, dated November 2, 1878.

(Traduction.)

LA semaine passée me trouvant en inspection de nos postes sur l'Agrapha, j'ai expédié un détachement à Yenitzou, sur notre territoire, à trois heures distance de Rendina, pour attaquer une bande de brigands qui s'y trouvait cachée.

Ces brigands, chassés de Yenitzou, s'enfuirent poursuivis par nos soldats, qui les ont vus passer la frontière et aller au corps de garde Hellénique campé à une courte distance de la ligne de démarcation. Les soldats Helléniques se joignant avec les brigands ont commencé à tirer sur les nôtres et en blessèrent un légèrement. Le détachement s'éloigna de la localité sans reporter. Sur le champ j'ai expédié le Binbashi Sulih Effendi, pour demander des explications au poste Hellénique. Le Sergent qui commandait le poste a fait des excuses, et déclara que ses hommes avaient fait feu par erreur, et que celui qui blessa le soldat Turc avait pris la fuite.

Notre détachement en se retirant de l'endroit en question a poursuivi sa marche dans la direction de notre block-house Agosini, près de la ligne de démarcation, et qui fut brûlé lors des derniers événements; en s'y approchant il fut assailli par le feu d'une grande bande de plus de quatre-vingt hommes, qui, par leurs vêtements, paraissaient être en partie des brigands mêlés avec des gardes de la frontière Hellénique. Un de nos soldats fut tué et un autre blessé. Le Chef de notre détachement, considérant sa proximité à la frontière et la composition suspecte de la bande, n'a permis à ses soldats

de riposter, et se retira avec eux de la localité afin d'éviter à rendre ce fâcheux incident plus grave encore.

Inclosure 16 in No. 480.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, November 2, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that a deserter from the Bulgarian camp has come here, and has said at the konak that the number of these insurgents is 15,000, armed with good Henry-Martini rifles, the very same which the Russians had taken from the Turks; and that they have field-pieces, but does not know the number.

The Bishop of Melenic is here; he has come, as have also all the other Bishops, to pay his respects to the new Patriarch Joachim, before he leaves Salonica for Constantinople.

He declares that the insurgents, calling themselves "Macedonians," demanded a large sum of money from him for his parishioners, and offered to give a receipt, saying the money will be repaid when they come into possession of their country, "Macedonia." As this sum was excessive, so that there was no hope of paying it, the Bishop came away to Serres by night.

Two British merchant-steamers arrived to-day from Constantinople, having on board altogether about 2,400 Turkish soldiers, principally men returned prisoners from Russia; they are going (most of them) to Kossova.

There are about 8,000 men forming the corps d'armée at Kossova, but reinforcements are being daily sent up by rail; Liva Ibraheem Pasha has been sent to command them.

Chefket Pasha, by order of the Seraskeriat, has been replaced here by Salih Pasha, who has come here from Kozanee with his Aide-de-camp, Major Bell. Chefket Pasha, ordered to go to Monastir, has telegraphed to be allowed to return to Constantinople.

The Circassians who have come here from Smyrna are being gradually sent up to Monastir and the Kossova district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

Inclosure 17 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Prevesa, November 2, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch of the 31st August last, reporting to your Excellency the arrest of thirty-six Christians by Ibrahim Pasha, on suspicion of their being accomplices of brigands, I have now the honour to acquaint your Excellency that twenty-four of the above suspected persons having been found guilty of the above charge have in consequence been exiled to Salonica.

I avail myself of the present opportunity to inform your Excellency that six more persons have been captured by brigands in the districts of Zagori and Conitza, and that Hamdi Pasha, the Commander-in-chief, left Janina on the 26th ultimo in company with the chief officer of police for the districts of Conitza, Colonia, Castoria, and Grevena.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure 18 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Gallipoli, le 12 Novembre, 1878.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que le bataillon d'infanterie et les trois canons de campagne, dont je faisais mention dans ma dépêche du 9 de ce mois, ont reçu l'ordre de débarquer à Dédéagach au lieu d'aller à Kara-Apach. Il transpire, d'une conversation que j'ai eu aujourd'hui avec le Gouverneur Rechad Pacha, qu'on craindrait de voir la bande de Petko faire son apparition du côté de Férédjik, où se trouve actuellement Mariar Pacha. Cette bande que l'on dit composée de 1,500 à 2,000 Bulgares de la pire espèce, guidée par ce Chef sanguinaire qui connaît tous les plus petits recoins du pays qui s'étend le long de la voie ferrée Dédéagach à Dimotika, où il a commis des actes de brigandage pendant douze années, pourrait bien arriver jusqu'à Dédéagach. Je crois que ce trop malfamé Petko est un instrument que la politique Russe fait jouer à volonté et suivant les circonstances. S'il parvient à s'emparer de Dédéagach je ne serais pas étonné de voir les Russes y faire une pointe sous prétexte d'aller mettre l'ordre là où les autorités Turques n'auraient pu se tenir.

Le bataillon envoyé à Dédéagach est composé de soldats Arabes, de la Syrie, qui pendant l'hiver ne peuvent se faire que très-difficilement au climat de ces contrées. On les envoient dans un endroit plus froid que Gallipoli et presque littéralement à moitié nus. Les soldats se rendront malades par le froid, et ne pourront se mesurer avec les hommes de Petko. Les soldats Bosniaques et Albanais auraient mieux répondu à l'occurence.

Le froid commence à se faire sentir et les soldats ici sont très-mal habillés. Les fonds nécessaires aussi pour les provisions de bouche commencent encore à manquer, malgré les demandes réitérées du Commandant-en-chef, qui prévoit que les troupes pourraient bien manquer de vivres si les fournisseurs ne reçoivent, au moins, une partie de ce qui leur est dû. Il faut que le Séraskierat prenne les mesures nécessaires pour subvenir aux besoins des troupes pendant la mauvaise saison.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 19 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, November 6, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency the following information which I have received from a perfectly reliable source:—

In the Cazas of Achialo and Missenia, now governed by the Russian Kaïmakam (Natchalnik) of Achialo, the Bulgarians have fired the villages of Lop Aghadjlar, Kishla Déré, Cazali Keui, Baltchik Keui, from all of which they have driven away the inhabitants, whose cattle and property they have seized and carried off. With regard to these villages, the plan pursued by the Bulgarians appears to have been to surround them, fire rifle-shots at random amongst the houses, and, as soon as the Turks fled, to enter the village, plunder it, and set fire to the houses. No Turks appear to have been killed in these cases, but the Turks of Cazali Keui were seen at Denizlar on the following day (October 30), by my informant, who tells me that many of them, including old men of more than 70 years, had been most unmercifully beaten. The firearms of the Turks belonging to this district had been collected by the 13th (Ordinski) Regiment of Russian Dragoons, and, to the number of 2,000, distributed amongst the Bulgarians by the Russian Governor of Achialo.

From the same district 187 buffalo and ox carts had been taken by the Russians on corvée from the villages of Hadja Keui, Tchelibé Keui, Denizlar, Dervisch Keui, and Arnaoutlar, and of these all the carts and cattle have been seized by the Bulgars, whilst ten of the drivers are missing.

My informant also tells me that at Akderé Boghazi, about eight or ten miles north of Cape Emineh, he saw a caravan of twelve Turkish and three Bulgarian waggons returning empty from a corvée, and escorted by a zaptieh; a number of Bulgarians were trying to drive away the Turks carts, and my informant rode up to the policeman and requested him to protect his charge. The zaptieh replied that the Bulgarians would kill him if he tried to do so, and the Bulgarians themselves told my informant

that they were determined to have both carts and cattle. As there was on the road a column of the 33rd Division, my informant rode up to the commanding officer and informed him of what was passing. This officer immediately gave orders for a troop of cavalry to rescue the Turkish carts; but as the troop was more than a mile distant my informant was unable to say what steps had been taken.

As far as I can judge, it is the intention of the Bulgarians, covertly aided, abetted, and encouraged by the Russians, to render the residence of the Turks in Eastern Roumelia impossible, and to force them to leave their homes.

If I might hazard a conjecture, based upon what I know occurs in the districts still inhabited by disarmed Turks, it would be that some order or permission is given to the Bulgarians to the following effect:—

"Drive Turks out of the country; do not kill them, because that can be proved against you; if you outrage the women that can hardly be proved; the cattle you take can never be recovered from you; if we send Russian troops to protect Turkish villages strategic reasons will always force us to withdraw them for a few days, but mind, no Russians must appear as either burning, killing, violating, or plundering. If you are caught (though it is unlikely) we shall give you up; but even if we leave the country you will always be the gainers by your being able to prove that the majority of the inhabitants in any given district is Bulgarian."

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 20 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, November 7, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that all the returned Turkish refugees, about ten in number, who, after some stay in Bourgas, proceeded to their former residence, the town of Karnabad, were refused permission to stay there, as not being furnished with Russian passports, and consequently left on the following day for the Turkish villages in the hills, or for other places.

One of the men, Baltan Hassan, died on the evening of his arrival, and his widow and niece, the latter a girl of 13, were seized by Bulgarians of the town, carried off to the vineyards, repeatedly outraged, and brought back the next morning; these two women are now in the Mussulman village of Shirla, Caza of Aidos, where they have friends.

A man named Gamsiz Oglou Hussein, one of the refugees, was pursued to the streets by Bulgarians, who threatened to kill him, and took refuge in the apartments of Mr. A. Seghezza, Italian Consular Agent for Bourgas, who happened to be staying at Karnabad, and to whom Hussein is personally known. Upon Mr. Seghezza's refusal to give the man up, and offering to pay any money they might claim, the Bulgarian said "they did not claim money, but meant to kill Hussein, and if they could not do so at that moment, they would take care that he did not leave the town alive." Mr. Seghezza succeeded, however, in sending away to Bourgas Hussein and his wife and child by a roundabout route, and under charge of one of his own servants. Hussein is a man of good character, and no accusations are made against him of his having at any time injured the Christians of Karnabad.

On the 24th October six Turks, returned refugees, and all belonging to the town of Aidos, applied to me under the following circumstances: they, Zaim Ibrahim Aga, Hadji Suleiman Aga, Boïdak Ismail Aga, Gherdemili Oglou Mustapha, Arnl Oglou Hadji Emmer, and Tellal Mehmet, were living with friends in the two villages (exclusively Mussulman) of Elma Déré and Ublurli, in the Caza of Aidos. Three days previously Bulgarian zaptiehs had come to these villages, ordering these men and their families to leave immediately for Aidos and Bourgas, and thence for Constantinople. The only answer they received as to what complaint was made against them was a reiteration of the order given.

One of them, Hadji Suleiman, who is old and infirm, asked leave to hire a cart at his own expense, but the permission was refused, and he was forced to walk the whole way, about 24 miles, at Aidos: no charge was brought against them, but they were simply told that "they must leave:" a zaptieh was ordered to escort them to Bourgas, but no instructions were given him to report their arrival to the authorities here, and once in this town they were left to themselves.

As a few days afterwards I happened to meet Lieutenant Kranse, the Russian Governor of Aidos, I took the opportunity of asking him about this case, and was surprised to learn that whilst he did not know of any accusations having ever been made against the Turks, they were sent away simply because the Bulgarians "wished them to go." Hadji Suleiman Agha was formerly a member of the local council of Aidos, and is a man whom I have known for some years as bearing an excellent character amongst both Christians and Mussulmans. He is the owner of about 100 acres of land, near the town of which the Bulgarians will not allow him to have "even a yard square to plant with Indian corn."

The villagers of this caza complain very bitterly of the organized cattle-lifting by bands of armed Bulgarians, and tell me that the robbers are in the pay of four of the "notables" of Aidos, of whom one is the schoolmaster and another a member of the council; they also say that the officer of police (a certain Mansl), whose duty it is to put down brigandage, &c., amongst the villagers, does nothing but fill his own pockets by extorting money from the Mussulmans. Their estimate of the present population of this caza is 12,000 Turks as against 3,000 Bulgarians, and they cannot understand why there is not a single Mussulman member in the Council of Aidos.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 21 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, November* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency a letter received by me from the Mussulmans of Belevren, a village in the Caza of Bourgas, describing the extremities to which they are reduced by their Bulgarian neighbours.

The bearers of this paper asked me to telegraph for them to the Porte, but I assured them that no such telegram as I should send would be likely to reach its destination, and they then begged me to forward to your Excellency the letter they had addressed to me; they had previously sent a similar document, but their messenger was intercepted by Bulgarians, robbed, beaten, and the paper torn up.

I sent the men to the local authorities, who told off a Bulgarian zaptieh to stay at Belevren and protect the village.

Since then many of the Belevren Turks have come to this town to try to earn their livelihood, without the risk of being shot down by armed Bulgarians; but they complain that they are constantly forced to sweep the streets, carry away mud, &c., without payment.

Corvée, or forced labour in transporting ammunition, &c., for the Russian troops, presses hardly upon the peasants of the country; the Russian commissariat pays 3 francs to every cart for the journey, no matter what the distance may be; some days since some Turkish villagers of Kizildjik in the Caza of Aidos came to tell me that their carts, having been sent to carry stores from Aidos to Bourgas, had again been requisitioned from here to Adrianople. As they asked my advice I told them that I thought they would do well to sell their cattle and waggons at Adrianople, and return by rail to Constantinople and thence here, taking care to have their passports visés at the Russian Chancellerie in the capital; my reason for thus advising them was that I do not believe that, coming from Adrianople across the hills, they would have been able to bring back a single pair of oxen, and that probably some of the drivers would have been missing; the instances given in my Report of November 6th prove the existence of real dangers incurred by Turkish peasants passing through a country which is at the mercy of Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES BROPHY.

Inclosure 22 in No. 480.

The Moukhtars of Belevren to Vice-Consul Brophy.

(Translation.)

GREETINGS from young and old. Their village is surrounded by armed Bulgarians, who fire into the village from the height called Yuksek Tépe; villagers beg me to send to the Sublime Porte a telegram describing their condition. They beg me to help them by any means in my power, and to give advice to the bearers of this paper, upon which they may decide what to do (probably, whether to remain or to emigrate).

Inclosure 23 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le 26 Novembre*, 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance les faits suivants que je tiens de sources officielles.

L'Ex-Gouverneur Russe du district de Malgara, qui est actuellement Gouverneur d'Ouzun Kiepru, a envoyé au village Turc de Baluban-keui, du département de Malgara, un détachement de cavalerie qui y a enlevé tout le foin, orge, et avoine qu'il pût trouver, des chariots, et a prélevé un impôt de 10,000 piastres.

En outre, d'autres détachements envoyés aux villages Chrétiens de Coskeui, Sultan-keui, et Hagi-keui, du département de Malgara, chassèrent les troupes Turques qui s'y trouvaient et forcèrent les villageois à signer des pétitions demandant l'occupation Russe.

Ce ne sont pas là les seuls exploits de ce Gouverneur. Il fit arrêter jeudi dernier l'Evêque Grec de Kiescian, M. Lefki, qui se trouvait en tournée à Katikala, village Chrétien du département d'Ouzun Kiepru, dépendant du diocèse de Kiescan. Ce prélat fut conduit sous bonne escorte à Ouzun Kiepru. Le Patriarcat et la Sublime Porte ont été immédiatement informés de ce fait.

Le 31 écoulé, à 7 heures du soir, avis était donné à la police que quatre officiers Russes escortés de trois soldats étaient entrés dans notre ville. Une patrouille fut envoyée à l'endroit où ils avaient pris pied afin de les surveiller. Le lendemain à l'aube ils repartirent pour Mirafly sans avoir été molestés et sans que rien eût été fait pour chercher à connaître quel a été le but de leur venue.

D'après mes informations il y aurait présentement soixante-dix bataillons de troupes Russes en deçà d'Andrinople sur le parcours de Dimotika, Ouzun Kiepru, Lulé-Bourgas, et Kirk-Kliesa.

Il y a trois jours le village Turc du département Hairabol; Karagioghieul, situé sur les confins du département de Ouzun Kiepru, fut attaqué et pillé par une bande de Chrétiens armés qui, employant leurs armes, obligèrent les habitants à prendre la fuite.

Son Excellence le Vice-Amiral Commerell est venu ici Jeudi matin et est reparti le même jour pour Gallipoli.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) M. DUSSI.

Inclosure 24 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Dätziel to Consul R. Reade.

Sir, *Varna, November* 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday evening Prince Dondoukoff sent for the interim Governor-General, Abulhair Effendi, and demanded immediate possession of the konak, Custom-house, &c., which demand of course could not be resisted. Afterwards, during the night, a battalion of soldiers was marched to the konak, and the guard of zaptiehs overpowered: the Bimbashi summoned assistance, which arrived; but meantime Abulhair Effendi sent a message not to resist, and the Russians thereupon took possession of the place. To-day the Turkish authorities were engaged removing those things which they wished to remove, and then they sold the furniture remaining to the Russians for, I believe, 30*l.* I am informed that Russian authorities will commence duty on Wednesday next. This morning a company of soldiers was marched to the Custom-house, where, the weather being stormy, there was no work doing, and took possession of it. I am informed that duties will be levied by Russian officers to-morrow.

There was no disturbance in either case, nor did any one seem to take much notice of what was doing.

All the Turkish functionaries will leave on Wednesday, with the exception of one

As a few days afterwards I happened to meet Lieutenant Kranse, the Russian Governor of Aidos, I took the opportunity of asking him about this case, and was surprised to learn that whilst he did not know of any accusations having ever been made against the Turks, they were sent away simply because the Bulgarians "wished them to go." Hadji Suleiman Agha was formerly a member of the local council of Aidos, and is a man whom I have known for some years as bearing an excellent character amongst both Christians and Mussulmans. He is the owner of about 100 acres of land, near the town of which the Bulgarians will not allow him to have "even a yard square to plant with Indian corn."

The villagers of this caza complain very bitterly of the organized cattle-lifting by bands of armed Bulgarians, and tell me that the robbers are in the pay of four of the "notables" of Aidos, of whom one is the schoolmaster and another a member of the council; they also say that the officer of police (a certain Mansi), whose duty it is to put down brigandage, &c., amongst the villagers, does nothing but fill his own pockets by extorting money from the Mussulmans. Their estimate of the present population of this caza is 12,000 Turks as against 3,000 Bulgarians, and they cannot understand why there is not a single Mussulman member in the Council of Aidos.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 21 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, November 13, 1878.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Excellency a letter received by me from the Mussulmans of Belovren, a village in the Caza of Bourgas, describing the extremities to which they are reduced by their Bulgarian neighbours.

The bearers of this paper asked me to telegraph for them to the Porte, but I assured them that no such telegram as I should send would be likely to reach its destination, and they then begged me to forward to your Excellency the letter they had addressed to me; they had previously sent a similar document, but their messenger was intercepted by Bulgarians, robbed, beaten, and the paper torn up.

I sent the men to the local authorities, who told off a Bulgarian zaptieh to stay at Belovren and protect the village.

Since then many of the Belovren Turks have come to this town to try to earn their livelihood, without the risk of being shot down by armed Bulgarians; but they complain that they are constantly forced to sweep the streets, carry away mud, &c., without payment.

Corvée, or forced labour in transporting ammunition, &c., for the Russian troops, presses hardly upon the peasants of the country; the Russian commissariat pays 3 francs to every cart for the journey, no matter what the distance may be; some days since some Turkish villagers of Kizildjik in the Caza of Aidos came to tell me that their carts, having been sent to carry stores from Aidos to Bourgas, had again been requisitioned from here to Adrianople. As they asked my advice I told them that I thought they would do well to sell their cattle and waggons at Adrianople, and return by rail to Constantinople and thence here, taking care to have their passports visé at the Russian Chancellerie in the capital; my reason for thus advising them was that I do not believe that, coming from Adrianople across the hills, they would have been able to bring back a single pair of oxen, and that probably some of the drivers would have been missing; the instances given in my Report of November 6th prove the existence of real dangers incurred by Turkish peasants passing through a country which is at the mercy of Bulgarians.

I have, &c.

(Signed) CHARLES BROPHY.

Inclosure 22 in No. 480.

The Moukhtars of Belovren to Vice-Consul Brophy.

(Translation.)

GREETINGS from young and old. Their village is surrounded by armed Bulgarians, who fire into the village from the height called Yuksek Tépe; villagers beg me to send to the Sublime Porte a telegram describing their condition. They beg me to help them by any means in my power, and to give advice to the bearers of this paper, upon which they may decide what to do (probably, whether to remain or to emigrate).

Inclosure 23 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le 26 Novembre,* 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à votre connaissance les faits suivants que je tiens de sources officielles.

L'Ex-Gouverneur Russe du district de Malgara, qui est actuellement Gouverneur d'Ouzun Kiepru, a envoyé au village Turc de Balaban-keui, du département de Malgara, un détachement de cavalerie qui y a enlevé tout le foin, orge, et avoine qu'il pût trouver, des chariots, et a prélevé un impôt de 10,000 piastres.

En outre, d'autres détachements envoyés aux villages Chrétiens de Coskeui, Sultan-keui, et Ilagi-keui, du département de Malgara, chassèrent les troupes Turques qui s'y trouvaient et forcèrent les villageois à signer des pétitions demandant l'occupation Russe.

Ce ne sont pas là les seuls exploits de ce Gouverneur. Il fit arrêter jeudi dernier l'Evêque Grec de Kiescian, M. Lefki, qui se trouvait en tournée à Katikala, village Chrétien du département d'Ouzun Kiepru, dépendant du diocèse de Kiescan. Ce prélat fut conduit sous bonne escorte à Ouzun Kiepru. Le Patriarcat et la Sublime Porte ont été immédiatement informés de ce fait.

Le 31 écoulé, à 7 heures du soir, avis était donné à la police que quatre officiers Russes escortés de trois soldats étaient entrés dans notre ville. Une patrouille fut envoyée à l'endroit ou ils avaient pris pied afin de les surveiller. Le lendemain à l'aube ils repartirent pour Muratly sans avoir été molestés et sans que rien eût été fait pour chercher à connaître quel a été le but de leur venue.

D'après mes informations il y aurait présentement soixante-dix bataillons de troupes Russes en deçà d'Andrinople sur le parcours de Dimotika, Ouzun Kiepru, Lulé-Bourgas, et Kirk-Klissa.

Il y a trois jours le village Turc du département Hairabol; Karagiaghieul, situé sur les confins du département de Ouzun Kiepru, fut attaqué et pillé par une bande de Chrétiens armés qui, employant leurs armes, obligèrent les habitants à prendre la fuite.

Son Excellence le Vice-Amiral Commerell est venu ici Jeudi matin et est reparti le même jour pour Gallipoli.

J'ai, &c.

(Signé) M. DUSSI.

Inclosure 24 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul R. Readé.

Sir, *Varna, November* 3, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that yesterday evening Prince Dondoukoff sent for the interim Governor-General, Abulhair Effendi, and demanded immediate possession of the konak, Custom-house, &c., which demand of course could not be resisted. Afterwards, during the night, a battalion of soldiers was marched to the konak, and the guard of zaptiehs overpowered: the Bimbashi summoned assistance, which arrived; but meantime Abulhair Effendi sent a message not to resist, and the Russians thereupon took possession of the place. To-day the Turkish authorities were engaged removing those things which they wished to remove, and then they sold the furniture remaining to the Russians for, I believe, 30*l.* I am informed that Russian authorities will commence duty on Wednesday next. This morning a company of soldiers was marched to the Custom-house, where, the weather being stormy, there was no work doing, and took possession of it. I am informed that duties will be levied by Russian officers to-morrow.

There was no disturbance in either case, nor did any one seem to take much notice of what was doing.

All the Turkish functionaries will leave on Wednesday, with the exception of one

battalion of troops, which will remain to complete the evacuation, it is expected, on Saturday the 1st.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

Inclosure 25 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, November* 11, 1878.

THE news relating to the Macedonian insurrection, or, more correctly speaking, the invasion of that province, contained in my telegram of to-day, was, I am informed in confidence, received by the Philippopolis Insurrectionary Committee in a telegram from Kustendil.

The invaders of Macedonia appear to be badly provided with artillery.

It is stated that they have only two guns.

The hope of plunder is said to be one of the principal inducements held out to the Bulgarian volunteers, and, according to reports which have reached me, the invading forces are profiting largely by the license of pillage which is allowed them. Bulgarian peasants who have just arrived from the neighbourhood of Djuma affirm that the invaders plunder, not only Turkish villages, but Christian villages also, when the latter (as has been generally the case) refuse to join them. It is said that in one place (a mixed Turkish and Bulgarian village in the district of Djuma) the inhabitants escaped plunder by paying a large sum to an insurgent Chief.

According to the last accounts, the Russo-Bulgarian forces were 6,000 strong at Djuma, and detachments had pushed their way as far as Melenik. This report was anterior to the news of the engagement near Nevretrope.

A gentleman (the nephew of my Greek colleague) who has lately come from Samakow, informs me that the volunteers for Macedonia freely parade in the streets of that town with music playing and banners unfurled. On the day of his departure from Samakow he observed two mules laden with Martini rifles, and driven by Bulgarians, entering the town by the Bazardjik road. He states that subscriptions are open in every village of Bulgaria, under the title of "Compassion for Macedonia" ("Myla za Makedonia"). The largest contributions to the fund, however, are given by the Russian officers, among whom the movement is extremely popular.

The same informant tells me that he met the Archbishop of Ochrida the other day at Bellowa.

This Prelate, as your Excellency may recollect, is taking a very active share in the movement. He was passing through Bellowa on his way to Kustendil, and was accoutered in military boots and spurs.

I learn that the Archbishop of Widdin (the late Exarch) has arrived at Kustendil with his 600 volunteers.

The Greeks here strenuously reject the statement that their brethren of Macedonia are compromised in the Bulgarian movement. They are of opinion that the Russians and the Bulgarians have spread this report in order to make it appear as though the native Christians of both denominations have been goaded into a joint uprising by the misgovernment of the Turks.

They are willing to believe that a few Greeks may have joined the movement, but not that the Greek population of Macedonia as a body will ever make common cause with the Bulgarians.

In my despatch of the 15th ultimo I informed your Excellency, on the authority of my confidential agent, that there were 1,750 Greeks in the malcontent forces at Kustendil. It is possible, however, that my informant may have been misled in this particular, as I hear that Christians wearing the Greek "fustonella," and coming from Macedonia, have lately been seen at Philippopolis, and when questioned as to their nationality stated that they were Bulgarians.

They explained their adoption of the Greek costume by stating that they have worn it for the last two years to secure themselves from ill-treatment by the Turks, who regarded all Bulgarians with suspicion, but remained friendly with the Greeks. It might be, therefore, that many of the so-called Greeks, enrolled under the Bulgarian banner at Kustendil, are really Bulgarians in Greek clothing, and that it suits the leaders of the movement to call them Greeks.

As I have already incidentally stated, the Christian population of Macedonia,

both Bulgarian and Greek, has hitherto, according to all accounts, shown itself very unwilling to take part actively with the Russo-Bulgarian invaders, and many Christian villages have been punished for their steadfast neutrality by being given up to pillage.

In the Rhodope mountains Petko is still mustering followers.

His head-quarters are at Tchepelli (not Tchepina, as I erroneously reported in my telegram of the 2nd instant).

He has not as yet, as far as I can learn, had any serious encounter with the Turks, but one of his lieutenants, Pope Demetri, the priest of Sofir (the same who murdered a Turkish refugee in cold blood last spring, and was only imprisoned twenty-four hours for the crime), was, according to the last advices, threatening to destroy a group of Turkish villages (Mougla, Trigrad, Kaintchaly, Balabon, Gheoren, and Dobri), if the inhabitants did not give up their arms and submit.

These villages are within the boundary of Eastern Roumelia, but have never been occupied by the Russians, who allege as their reason for not advancing to the extreme limits of the province their unwillingness to engage in further hostilities with the Mussulman population.

The informant who assured me of the good treatment of the Christians by the Turks in the Rhodope districts (see my telegram of the instant) was the Greek Protosyngelos (priest) of Akhir, Tchelebi, who is now here on business.

He also assures me that the report of the massacre of Christians by the Turks at Tchitak (see my telegram of the ultimo) was a pure invention for the purpose of obtaining Petko's release. The only Christian who was killed anywhere in the neighbourhood of Tchitak was Dimitri Voivoda, a brigand Chief in Petko's band, who was shot by the Turks on the day after Petko's arrest.

Should the Bulgarian insurrection extend to Serres and Drama and prove successful, the Mussulmans of Mount Rhodope would find themselves surrounded, and have much difficulty in holding their country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 26 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Philippopolis, November* 12, 1878.

WITH respect to the efforts recently made by the Russians to induce the Armenian, Jewish, Turkish, and Roman Catholic Bulgarian communities to sign an address deprecating any alteration in the existing administration, I beg leave to inclose herewith a copy of the address in question, which, as I informed your Excellency by telegraph, was not signed by any of the non-Bulgarian communities.

The request for signatures to it was, I am informed by one of the Turkish notables, made to him directly by the Russian Chief of the Police.

I learn that a few of the leading Armenians did sign the address, but their doing so is deprived of all significance by the fact that they are mostly, if not all, naturalized Russian subjects; and their conduct was so entirely at variance with the real sentiments of the community that they were threatened with lapidation by their fellow Armenians.

The Roman Catholic Bulgarians, who number 8,000 souls, to a man refused their signatures to the address.

As for the Greeks, their independent attitude since the beginning of the Russian occupation, and their notoriously hostile sentiments towards Russians and Bulgarians alike, deterred the latter from making any attempt to obtain their co-operation in the Bulgarian agitation.

As regards the Turks, it was hoped that, in their present cowed and dispirited condition, they would not dare to refuse their signatures. But the presence of the Commission appears to have raised their courage. They refused to sign the document, although a few days previously they had suffered themselves to be induced to sign a fulsome address to Prince Dondoukoff, on the occasion of his departure for Sofia, thanking him for the goodness of his administration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 27 in No. 480.

Address sent to the Eastern Roumelia Commission.

Excellence,

NOUS, habitants de la Roumélie Orientale, de religion Israélite, prenons la liberté de soumettre aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances nos justes vœux, dans le ferme espoir que l'Europe éclairée, s'inspirant des intérêts de l'humanité et de la civilisation, voudra bien les prendre en considération.

Pleinement satisfaits de l'organisation dont nous jouissons depuis quelques mois, et n'ayant nul sujet de nous plaindre de la race prédominante, nous ne saurions envisager, sans éprouver les plus vives inquiétudes, tout changement susceptible de favoriser le retour d'un régime qui a attiré sur ce malheureux pays tant de souffrances inouies.

Nous profitons donc de la présence de la Commission Européenne à Philippopoli pour la conjurer, au nom de la justice, de l'humanité, et de la civilisation, de laisser intactes et de consacrer les institutions actuelles, qui seules peuvent assurer l'ordre et la tranquillité existants, qui seules peuvent aussi dissiper toutes nos appréhensions pour l'avenir.

Dans la pleine confiance que vous daignerez prêter à la présente votre attention bienveillante, nous avons, &c.

(Not signed.)

Inclosure 28 in No. 480.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Philippopolis, November 12, 1878.

Sir,

I HAD the honour to telegraph to your Excellency yesterday that the Bulgarians of Philippopolis were agitating against the transfer of the financial administration of the province to the European Commission.

At the summons of the leading agitators, MM. Gueshoff, Iseroff, Kaltchoff, the Bulgarian Archbishop, and others, all the Bulgarian shops and offices in the town were closed in the morning, and Bulgarians of all classes flocked to the principal school, where they were addressed in vehement language by the gentlemen I have named. They were told that by giving up the finances of the province to the Commission the first step would be made towards recognizing the Treaty of Berlin and permitting the restoration of Turkish rule. Rather, therefore, than consent to this measure, they should use force to prevent it. They drew up a protest for presentation to the Commission, and a deputation was formed on the spot, which repaired to the Russian Governor-General and protested against the transfer of the finances.

His Excellency, however, appears to have shown them the impossibility of resisting this measure, and his words had the effect of completely allaying the popular effervescence. Nor has anything further been heard of the protest.

The shops and offices were reopened by order of the police, and tranquillity was soon restored, notwithstanding the fact that the transfer of the financial administration into the hands of the Commission was effected in the afternoon. The Bulgarian employés of the Financial Department had threatened to resign in a body if the transfer was carried out, but I have not heard up to the present that they have done anything of the kind.

Various other demonstrations and protests are, I understand, in preparation, and no means will be neglected to intimidate or otherwise influence the members of the European Commission.

The next deputation to the Commission will, I hear, consist of a number of Bulgarian widows from Carlowa and Sopot, whose husbands were hanged in Philippopolis last autumn. These poor women were summoned to town a few days ago by the Archbishop, M. Pamarestos, and have already begun to arrive. Besides presenting a written address, one of them, a young woman of superior education, will, I am informed, deliver a verbal appeal in French to the members of the Commission.

Another deputation will consist of women from Batak.

That the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia will offer any real resistance to the decisions of the Commission, unless the Russians are prepared to assist them with their army, is, I venture to think, utterly improbable. The Bulgarian peasantry have too

vivid a recollection of the horrors of the last war to make any further sacrifices at present for the attainment of any national aspirations they may cherish.

The agitators of Philippopolis know this to be the case, but they calculate upon gaining greater advantages than they would otherwise obtain, by endeavouring to impress the European Commission with false and exaggerated ideas of the Bulgarian popular feeling, and of its capability of asserting itself in deeds.

There is no doubt a large proportion of the Bulgarian people, which, still believing implicitly in the power of Russia, hopes that the Czar will undertake another war in their behalf and realize the entire benefits claimed for them in the Treaty of San Stefano.

Something like a symptom that this hope is not discouraged by the Russians appears in the renewed enthusiasm for Russia which is now beginning to manifest itself.

The Bulgarian notables, while crowding to the weekly receptions held at the new Russian Consulate-General, hold aloof completely from the members of the European Commission. To-day they are preparing to give a joyful and demonstrative reception to Prince Dondoukoff, who is expected to arrive on a visit from Sofia in the course of the day.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. R. J. CALVERT.

No. 481.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Vranja, November 10, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that, on the 16th October last, Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg proceeded to Prepolac, with a view of making a reconnaissance of that important position for the information of the members of the Boundary Commission, and I beg to transmit herewith a confidential Report which he has addressed to me, with a copy of the sketch which he made of the environs of Prepolac.

On the Austrian Staff map the village of Prepolac is shown on the Servian side of the main line of water-parting, which, up to that point, had been taken as the new frontier between Servia and Turkey, and, in using the words "laissant Prepolac à la Turquie," in the Treaty, it was no doubt intended by the Congress of Berlin to leave the line of water-parting, and include so much ground on the Servian side of that line as would afford Turkey the means of defending the important pass which leads directly down to the plain of Kossovo.

Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg's reconnaissance shows that the village of Prepolac is on the Turkish side of the line of water parting, though the commune or village property of Prepolac extends some distance beyond it, on the Servian side, as shown by the red line on the accompanying tracing. The village of Prepolac is of no military importance, the real position, which the Servians have strengthened by field-works, lying on the Servian side of the line of water-parting, though within the Commune of Prepolac.

The Servians occupy at present a strong position behind which troops could be massed for offensive purposes, whilst the Turks have no good defensive position to check a Servian advance to the vicinity of Pristina and the plain of Kossovo. On the other hand, if, following what I believe to be the spirit of the Treaty, the heights of Prepolac on the Servian side of the line of water-parting were given to Turkey, that Power would have a good line of defence, whilst the Servians would still retain good defensive positions between Prepolac and Kursumlje.

The Commission will probably visit Prepolac after the boundary has been marked in the Vranja Valley, and I believe that there will be great difficulty, if not impossibility, in reconciling the conflicting opinions.

If the words of the Treaty are taken to mean simply that the village of Prepolac is to be left to Turkey, and the line of water-parting is adopted as the boundary, Turkey will have no proper means of defending herself from a Servian attack at this important point; whilst, if the words of the Treaty may be taken to mean the Commune of Prepolac, and the boundary of that commune be adopted as the frontier,

Turkey will have a good defensive but not offensive position, and Servia will retain positions sufficiently strong to guarantee the security of her territory.

I propose, when the question comes on for discussion, to adopt the view that, in accordance with the spirit of the Treaty of Berlin, the new line of frontier should follow the boundary of the Commune of Prepolac, and should be glad to know beforehand whether this view would meet your Lordship's approval. A telegram through Mr. Gould would probably reach me before the arrival of the Commission at Prepolac.

I would beg in conclusion to draw your Lordship's attention to the tact and judgment shown by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg in carrying out the mission entrusted to him under circumstances of some difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 481.

Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg to Major Wilson, R.E.

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Vranja, November 4*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that, according to your instructions, I visited Prepolac, and made a sketch of the neighbourhood, on a scale of 1 inch to the mile. I inclose this sketch.

The road from Kurshumlie to Prepolac runs through a narrow defile formed by the Banska Ricka as far as Banska,* thence it follows the Prepolachka Ricka as far as the summit of the pass at Prepolac.

From Kurshumlie to Banska the road is level, or nearly so; and when I passed over it, it was sufficiently good for wheeled transport, but in winter it would probably be flooded in several places, and not easily available for carts. From Banska it ascends the defile of the Prepolachka stream, and arrived at a point marked 428 in the sketch; it rises rapidly by steep gradients, up a deep gorge formed by the stream, until it reaches the main watershed of the affluents of the Toplica and of those of the Lab. As this portion of the road is higher than the river, and as it could be more easily drained, I am of opinion that it could be used for wheeled transport the whole year round if ordinary precautions were used. From this point a good road, apparently available in all seasons, descends very gradually for about 1½ miles, and then it seems to fall somewhat abruptly into the valley of the Lab.

By the inclosed sketch it will be seen that the heights which command this pass are all of them on the Servian side. Particular attention should be directed to that marked 849, which dominates the whole country round, and which, when once fortified strongly, would form a position most difficult to attack. The Turkish side is completely surrounded by the Servian line, and forms a regular cul de sac, incapable of resistance; the height marked 694 on this side has not a sufficient command to be of any use.

On arrival at Prepolac I found the Servian troops in possession, not only of the heights on their own side, but also of the line of watershed. They had constructed small earthworks on all commanding positions near the pass, as well as on those marked 804 and 813, actually on the water-parting. Their outposts were placed along the whole line marked green in the sketch (the watershed).

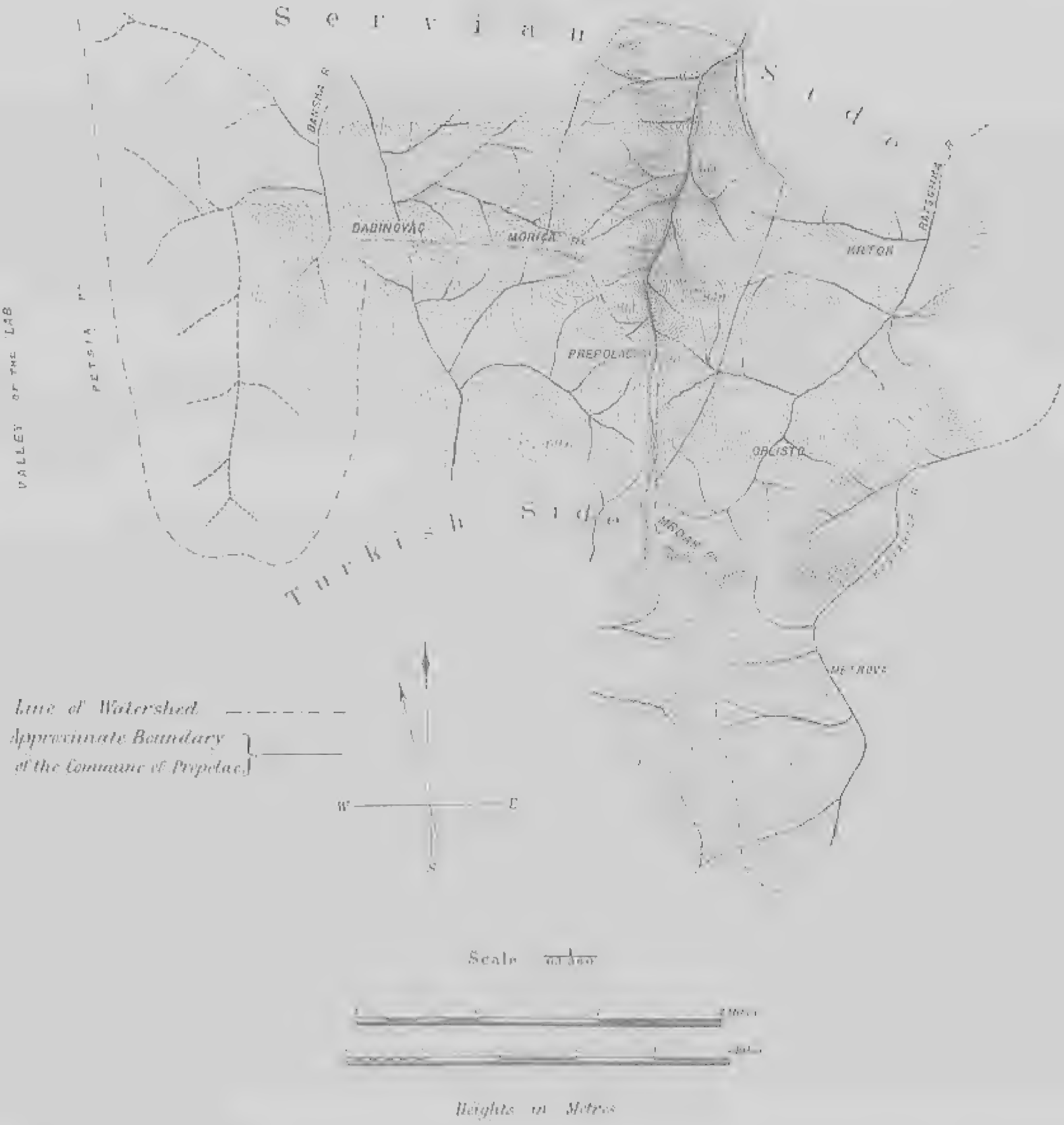
The Turks had a few companies (500 men in all) encamped in a hollow some 300 yards from the Servian outposts near the main road. They had only one sentry upon the new frontier. Thus all the military advantages of the situation are at present in the hands of the Servians.

The Servian commanding officer gave me every facility for surveying, &c., within his own line of outposts, but the Turkish commander was unable to guarantee me any security from the Albanians who were wandering about in the woods on his side, and who were reported most unfavourable to the new frontier in this locality.

The whole valley from Kurshumlie inclusive—and, indeed, some way towards Prokoplie (Urkub)—to Prepolac was inhabited by Albanians who have all left their homes on the arrival of the Servians. I was thus obliged to confine myself to the watershed occupied by the Servians, and could not pursue my observations in the valley of the Lab.

* Written "Banja" in the Austrian Staff map.

SKETCH
OF THE
ENVIRONS OF PREPOLAC.



Tracing of Sketch by
John Ross of Bladensburg
Lt. Coldstream Guards

The houses of the village of Prepolac, as far as I could see it from the Servian side, are scattered about on the Turkish slopes of the Marica Planina; none are to be found on the other side, the village burial-ground alone is situated on the watershed itself near the road at the point marked 783.

I sent for an old inhabitant of the village, an Albanian, and asked him to show me the limits of the Commune of Prepolac, which is, in fact, the property of the village. He traced a line which is roughly shown in the copy of the sketch by a red line. If his information is correct, it will be seen that the most important heights which command the pass to Kurshumlie belong to this commune. As I was surrounded by Servian officers, and as I feared that they might find means (if they knew what sort of information I was seeking) to influence the inhabitants of the village so as to prevent correct evidence being obtained by the Boundary Commission on this important point, I was unwilling to make very extended inquiries; but the Albanian inhabitant, born and bred in the village, seemed to understand the purport of the question put to him, and the fact that the river running towards the Toplica, away from the village, is called the Prepolachka Ricka, would go far to prove that it flows through the commune called Prepolac.*

If the words "laissant Prepolac à la Turquie," in the Treaty of Berlin, mean that not only the houses of the village, but also its woods and fields, are to remain a portion of the Ottoman Empire, then Turkey will retain some defensive power over the pass, when it can be definitely proved that the information I obtained is correct. On the other hand, if they merely mean the actual houses, Servia has at once an offensive line which will open to her a ready and easy means of attack on the Salonica-Mitrovitza Railway, an attack which it will be almost impossible for Turkey to resist, at all events, by any military resistance near Prepolac. This attack will also be greatly aided by the manner in which the line of watershed surrounds Prepolac; for, whom what I saw, it did not appear unlikely that the Servians would be able to construct roads up the Kostanica and Banska Rivers to their sources, and to operate there, where the watershed was depressed below the general height. This latter consideration, I would also submit, takes away from Turkey the power of offensive action towards Kurshumlie, even if the heights spoken of near the pass were given to her; it would reduce her to a defensive rôle in this locality, providing that the Servians take proper care to make the most of their new frontier on the Mrdar Planina, and near the sources of the Banska. But if these heights are taken from her, the gift of Prepolac by the Treaty of Berlin is of no use to her defence.

I have, &c.
(Signed) JOHN ROSS OF BLADENSBURG,
Lieutenant, Coldstream Guards.

Inclosure 2 in No. 481.

Tracing of Sketch of Prepolac.

No. 482.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 15.)
Vranja, November 10, 1878.

My Lord,

IN compliance with the instructions contained in your letter No. 5 of the 24th September, 1878, I have the honour to inform you that, in all probability, it will not be possible to continue the field-work of the Boundary Commission after the 30th of this month, and that work cannot be recommenced before the month of April next. Under these circumstances I should be glad to receive your Lordship's instructions as the disposal of myself and Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg.

The late arrival of the Turkish Commissioner rendered the delimitation of the entire line of frontier this season impossible; but as that line, with the exception of the sections at Prepolac and Vranja—the latter of which, I trust, will be finished this

* It is usual in these localities for streams to take their names from the villages built upon them. I should add, that I got the name "Prepolachka Ricka" from a Servian authority.

month—follows a well-defined line of water-parting, known to every one, no question ought to arise during the winter as to the position of the boundary.

I would beg to suggest, for your Lordship's consideration, the advisability of sending Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg home by way of Pristina, Uskub, and Salonica; and should your Lordship consider it desirable that I should personally communicate with Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople respecting the affairs of the Servian Boundary Commission, it would probably be possible to travel thither viâ Sofia and Adrianople.

Should your Lordship approve of these suggestions I would make arrangements for the return to England of the Royal Engineers attached to the Commission before leaving Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 483.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 17. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vranja, November 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Servian troops still occupy the positions beyond the frontier indicated in my despatch No. 6 of the 10th October. As the general line of the new frontier was agreed upon at the meeting of the 4th November, and the actual line is now marked on the ground from Poljanica, across the Morava Valley, to a point between Swa, Hija, Planina, and Mount Kljuc, whence it follows a well-defined line of water-parting, there is no reason for the continued occupation of the district beyond the frontier four months after the signature of the Berlin Treaty.

The peasants of the occupied district as far as Samdice and Trgovisti have been embodied in the Servian militia, and I am informed that these men have expressed their intention of retiring to the hills with their arms, and becoming "Heydues," or bandits. I fear, therefore, that there will be many disturbances on the reoccupation of the district by the Turkish troops, and consider it very necessary that when the Servian troops retire the Turks should at once advance in sufficient force to overawe any resistance that may be attempted.

Servian troops still occupy Ten, Caribrod, and Beznik, in Bulgaria.

I am glad to be able to inform your Lordship that no conflict has arisen with the Albanians during the work of the Commission; and, as far as I can learn, the losses incurred by the Servian troops have been in districts beyond the line of frontier, with the exception of a few isolated cases in which soldiers have been killed within the Servian lines by Albanians who, having been driven from their homes, are living in the mountains in a state of destitution.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

No. 484.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 18.)
My Lord, *Vranja, November 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a telegram has been received from the President of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission to the effect that that Commission has no difficulty in assigning the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian boundary to the Servian Boundary Commission.

Under these circumstances, I presume that I may proceed, in conjunction with my colleagues, with the delimitation of the Servo-Bulgarian boundary, though I do not anticipate that, at this advanced season of the year, any attempt will be made to commence work on this portion of the Servian boundary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure in No. 484.

Telegram received from the President of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission.

Au Président de la Commission de Délimitation de Serbie-Nisch.

LA Commission de Bulgarie ne voit aucune difficulté à ce que la Commission de Serbie se charge de la délimitation de la frontière Bulgaro-Serbe.

Le Président,
(Signé) TAHIR PACHA.

No. 485.

Consul Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 90. Political.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Scutari, November 11, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that I have lately had occasion to converse with several of the leading members of the Albanian League residing here, and that I have thus had an opportunity of hearing from them the scope of their organization.

They state that the League merely embodies a determination, which, in the absence of a better expression, they call "national," to resist Albania being engulfed by one or the other of the numerous hostile elements which have surrounded the country.

The term "national" must not be taken to mean even the shadow of a desire for separation from the Sultan's rule. The League has understood the way in which the wishes of populations have, in late years, acted in politics, and if the Ottoman Empire can be subjected to dismemberment by the violent expression of "national" will, so ought it to be able to retain provinces which are determined at all costs to cleave to it.

The League has no intention of making war either against Montenegro, Austria, Servia, Bulgaria, Russia, or Greece, but it has given the world notice that Albania is, so to speak, entailed property, and that the Sultan cannot make away with a single inch of it without the consent of the heirs-at-law—the Albanians.

Sheikh Mustafa of Kalcandelen has summoned an assembly of Delegates from the whole province, but he has only been able to do so because he is believed to be a trusted and faithful subject of the Sultan; and so anxious are the members of the League that its action should be united, that they have suspended in Scutari selecting a Delegate for the Assembly, as the Christians have felt indisposed to join in his election without the sanction of the Governor-General, who is still absent at Cavaja.

Of course the direct approval of the authorities is not sought for in every step taken by the League; but, at the same time, nothing is attempted which meets with the decided disapproval of the Government. The leaders of the League know that they must lean for support on the Turkish power, and that the present time is so critical that all local and personal jealousies must give way.

They have instilled into the country this conviction, and they hope that those whom it ought to benefit will know how to make use of it.

The gentlemen who gave me the above explanations repeatedly assured me that the Albanian movement must be looked upon as the heroic effort of a nation (Ottoman nation) which sees itself surrounded by almost insurmountable dangers, and that the only ray of hope now existing was that Englishmen would come forward to teach it and lead it to disentangle itself. They consoled themselves first with the religious obligation to share the fate of the Khalifa, and then with the asserted existence of a prophecy that all will end well under the guidance of the English.

I believe that, should the need ever arise, the English Government could easily bring together a very valuable force of from 60,000 to 80,000 Albanians for continued service in any part of Eastern Europe, and that this force could, through influential Albanians, be made to consent to submit to a much more rigorous system of discipline than has hitherto been thought practicable with Arnoouts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 486.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 226. Political.)

Bucharest, November 12, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that the Russian Minister here is pushing with great vigour the negotiations by which an arrangement has to be come to between his Government and that of Roumania for keeping up the communication of the Russian army of occupation on the other side of the Danube, but apparently without any result up to this moment.

Ostensibly the Russian demands are based on the text of Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, and the Imperial Cabinet would probably not admit to the other Powers that it asks for anything beyond the limits of that Treaty.

On inquiry I find, however, that the Russian demands cannot be said to be confined to the text of the above Article, but are very much in excess of what is there stipulated.

The Russian effective force in Turkey is largely in excess of what was originally arranged, and the intention of holding garrisons and fortifying certain places in the Dobrudscha cannot be considered as a legitimate deduction from the tenour of Article XXII, but as aiming at a military possession of that territory, inclusive of Kustendje and of the mouth of the Danube at Silistria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 487.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 228. Political.)

Bucharest, November 13, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to report to your Lordship on the 30th October last the appointment of Baron Fava as Italian Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary at this Court.

In conformity with that determination the Baron received his credentials, but was instructed, at the same time, by his Government not to present them to Prince Charles till further orders had been sent him from Rome.

It is believed here that this delay is due to the influence of the French Government; and M. Waddington is credited with a desire to dissuade the other Powers from recognizing Roumania till his own Government feels itself justified in doing the same.

In connection with this subject efforts are being made here to obtain from this Government a declaration sufficiently precise to remove any doubts that appear to be still entertained in some quarters as to their intention with regard to the removal of Jewish and other religious disabilities.

The friendly intervention of the German Government is looked forward to here for the purpose of devising a form of declaration which would satisfy the Governments of Germany and Italy.

It has been remarked to me, with regret, that recognition on the part of these two Courts can have no influence in counterbalancing the alarming pressure exercised by Russia at this moment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 488.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 231. Political.)

Bucharest, November 16, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 14th instant, I have the honour to report that the language employed by me on all occasions towards Roumanian Ministers and other influential persons at Bucharest has always consisted in pointing out to them all the dangers to their country which any secret or clandestine engagements with Russia would probably lead to.

I am happy to be able to testify that my observations have found a most willing ear with the principal statesmen who are now in office, though these same men were in alliance with Russia twelve months ago, and perhaps on that very account.

During the negotiations with Russia about the Dobrudscha, which have been conducted with the greatest secrecy by the Agents of that Power, and have lasted now upwards of three months, the partizans of a Muscovite alliance have not neglected the employment of every plausible argument to induce persons in authority in Roumania to be guided by their counsels.

They have not only pressed on their attention the advantages which might accrue to them in future from a continuation of the Russian alliance, but they have not failed to remind them how little benefit they derived from their refusal to surrender Bessarabia, and how slow the Western Powers were even now to give them that moral support which would be implied by recognition.

Since the arrival of General Ghika at Livadia as the Envoy of Prince Charles, the full influence of that powerful and insinuating Court has been brought to bear to induce compliance.

In formulating their proposals to this Government the Russian Cabinet has been most careful, after ascertaining how difficult it would be to coax Roumania into more extensive engagements—at the present moment—to make it appear that all they were asking for was to be considered as the consequence of the stipulation in favour of her communications with her army of occupation guaranteed to Russia till the 3rd August by Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin.

For that purpose the negotiators, Baron Stuart and General Nikitine, were instructed to make use of that favourite word of the Russian Chancellerie, "guarantees."

They said that a simple freedom of communication across Roumanian territory, inclusive of the Dobrudscha, was insufficient unless accompanied by proper securities; that such securities were chiefly necessary on the sea-side, and that for that purpose Russia must retain, not only a right of military way sufficiently protected, but likewise garrisons and possession of fortifications at Sulina and Kustendje.

Although I felt that I was probably alone amongst Foreign Agents here, in using precise language on this subject, I told the Roumanian Ministers how unwise they would be in departing one iota from the Treaty of Berlin, and I assured them, with your Lordship's sanction, of the full moral support of Her Majesty's Government, adding that this time they would not have the excuse of which they availed themselves so largely on a previous important occasion, and that I had warned them sufficiently plainly and with no uncertain sound.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 489.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 22.)

(No. 232. Political.)

Bucharest, November 16, 1878.

My Lord,

THE Roumanian Ministers believed that they had some cause to apprehend that Count Schouvaloff would make to Count Andrassy, during his recent visit to Pesth, some communication with reference to the Convention for the passage of her troops, which Russia is desirous to conclude with Roumania.

The apparent indifference of Austria to Russian doings in Roumania is always given as an excuse here for listening to the insidious proposals coming from St. Petersburgh or Livadia.

To remove every misconstruction of this kind I telegraphed to Sir Henry Elliot, and Count Hoyos also addressed a question to Count Andrassy, asking whether Count Schouvaloff had spoken to his Excellency about this Convention.

Count Hoyos came to tell me this afternoon that Count Schouvaloff had denied to the Austro-Hungarian Chancellor all knowledge of Roumania being pressed by his Government to conclude such a Convention; this information was conveyed by him at

once to the Roumanian Foreign Minister, and it was confirmed by a telegram I received this evening from Sir Henry Elliot.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 490.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 233. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 16, 1878.*

YESTERDAY the Roumanian Government sent a note to Baron Stuart, giving its reasons for not considering it necessary to conclude any new Convention with his Government, for the purpose of regulating the passage of Russian troops through Roumania and the Dobrudscha.

I believe it is intended to communicate copies of this correspondence to all the Signatory Powers, and that the Roumanian Agent at Paris will be instructed to give one to Lord Lyons.

The Russian Cabinet having insisted that the proposed Convention should contain stipulations which could assure the communications of its army occupying Bulgaria with the Empire, have been told, I believe, that hitherto no inconvenience appears to have arisen, and that the existing securities had hitherto proved sufficient for the purpose.

Intelligence having been received that the Commission of Delimitation will have concluded its labours in the Dobrudscha in a day or two, the Russians have been informed that Prince Charles intends occupying the new territory, under the Treaty of Berlin, immediately.

I inclose a French article of the "Orient," which has reference to this question, but which is inaccurate in many of its assertions.

This Government hopes in this way to put an end to all further pressure on the part of Russia, and to obtain possession of its new territory without entering on any new obligations.

It remains to be seen whether the Russians will allow the Roumanians to take possession of the Sulina mouth and of Kustendje; if they do not, and if no amicable arrangement is come to for a joint occupation, an appeal to the Powers will be made by this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 490.

Extract from "L'Orient" of November 17, 1878.

Bucarest, le 5/17 Novembre, 1878.

IL est grand temps que l'armée Roumaine occupe la Dobroudja, si l'on veut mettre un terme aux nombreux bruits, tous plus puérils les uns que les autres, répandus dans les journaux de l'Europe relativement à l'avenir de cette province. On se rappelle, car l'on en a parlé assez longtemps et il en était question hier encore, cette rumeur d'après laquelle les Russes ne voulaient s'en aller si d'abord les Roumains ne signaient un Traité garantissant aux armées du Czar un libre passage à travers le pays annexé; puis celle en vertu de laquelle la Russie aurait cédé à la Roumanie la moitié de la ville de Silistrie, en échange de l'éternel droit de passage à accorder à l'armée Russe; enfin, dix autres combinaisons, tout aussi ingénieuses que celles-là, ont couru la presse depuis que le Traité de Berlin a été conclu. Mais jamais les nouvellistes n'avaient été plus à côté de la question que celui qui, à la date du 11 Novembre, expédiait de Constantinople la dépêche suivante:—

"Les Russes ont complété le réarmement des fortifications de Kustendjé. Le Gouverneur Russe, après avoir fait ses préparatifs de départ, est revenu dans son hôtel déclarant qu'il passerait l'hiver à Kustendjé. Les Russes gardent les gares des chemins de fer. Les Roumains, arrivés à Mangali, ont reçu l'ordre de repartir."

On a peine à tenir son sérieux en lisant de telles absurdités. Jamais il n'y a eu de difficultés entre la Roumanie et la Russie relativement à la prise de possession de

la Dobroudja par l'armée Roumaine. Il y a longtemps que l'armée Russe se serait retirée, si le Gouvernement Roumain l'avait demandé; or, non-seulement ce Gouvernement n'a jamais fait semblable demande, mais il a, au contraire, déclaré, qu'il n'entrerait en Dobroudja que lorsque la Commission Européenne en aurait fixé les limites. C'est de là seulement que vient le retard de la prise de la possession. Et l'attitude de la Roumanie dans cette affaire est toute naturelle. Le Gouvernement Russe et le Gouvernement princier n'étaient point d'accord sur la ligne frontière à tracer entre la Dobroudja et la Bulgarie; celui-ci tenait pour la ligne droite, autant que possible; celui-là pour une ligne en zig-zag, qui lui aurait permis de donner à la principauté Bulgare certaines localités que la ligne droite adjugeait à la Roumanie. Cela étant, fallait-il, avant que le différend ne fût vidé par la Commission Européenne, faire occuper par l'armée Roumaine les points en litige? C'eût été augmenter les difficultés, c'eût été aller au-devant des incidents, se prêter à les créer, à les faire naître. La Roumanie ne le voulut point. D'autre part, si l'on occupait le reste de la Dobroudja et non les localités contestées, la Russie n'eût pas manquée de dire ensuite à la Commission Européenne:—

"Voyez, les Roumains ont tellement admis que celà doit demeurer à la Bulgarie, qu'ils n'y ont pas mis les pieds."

La Roumanie ne voulut pas davantage s'exposer à cette éventualité, assurément très-probable. Et voilà pourquoi la prise de possession de la Dobroudja a été ajournée jusqu'à ce que la Commission de Délimitation ait prononcé souverainement sur les points contestés.

Cette décision rendue, la Roumanie ira en Dobroudja libre de tout engagement avec le Gouvernement Russe, et n'ayant d'autres obligations à remplir, pas plus envers la Russie qu'envers les autres Puissances, que celles qui découlent pour elle du Traité de Berlin.

Voilà la vérité, toute la vérité.

No. 491.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 234. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 18,* 1878.

THE Roumanian Government have been very much gratified, and the Russian authorities appear to have been annoyed to the same degree, by an application which Count Hoyos made to the Government of this country for exequaturs for the Austro-Hungarian Consular officers residing in the Dobrudscha.

These exequaturs appeared yesterday in the "Official Monitorul," and this was the first public act exercised in the name of Prince Charles with regard to the new territory.

I do not know how far it would be possible for your Lordship to sanction a similar demand for our Consuls at Kustendje and Sulina, but on account of the Russian pretensions to continue to hold these two posts, an application on our part would, I have no doubt, be deemed as a proof of the recognition of Roumanian sovereignty over the Dobrudscha, though I admit that it would be difficult to make it through me, as I am not supposed to hold any diplomatic relations with Prince Charles or his Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 492.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, November 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 18 Novembre,* 1878.

LA Sublime Porte, voulant réformer le système Douanier de l'Empire, a décidé de faire venir de Londres deux spécialistes distingués ayant acquis par un service prolongé dans les Douanes Anglaises une expérience approfondie et toutes les connaissances voulues dans cette branche de l'Administration. Il va sans dire que ces spécialistes, qui auront l'un le titre de Sous-Directeur et l'autre d'Inspecteur, doivent être des

personnalités d'une capacité éprouvée. Veuillez vous adresser à Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères pour le choix de ces spécialistes et nous faire connaître leurs noms ainsi que les conditions de leur engagement. Le Gouvernement Britannique, qui nous a toujours témoigné une grande sollicitude pour la réorganisation et l'amélioration de toutes les branches de notre Administration, voudra bien, je n'en doute pas, faire un accueil favorable à notre demande en détachant de son personnel deux fonctionnaires distingués, et c'est dans cette conviction que je vous prie de lui en exprimer d'avance les vifs remercîments de la Sublime Porte. L'Ambassade Impériale à Paris a été invitée de son côté à engager deux autres spécialistes Français ayant les mêmes attributions.

No. 493.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 934. Confidential.)
Paris, November 20, 1878.

My Lord,

I MENTIONED in the postscript of my despatch No. 923 of yesterday that Count Schouvaloff had arrived in Paris, and had had an interview with M. Waddington.

I have not seen Count Schouvaloff myself, but M. Waddington was so good as to tell me confidentially, this afternoon, the substance of what the Count said to him yesterday.

M. Waddington observed to me that it was very possible that Count Schouvaloff might have made some specific proposals to the Austrian Government on his way hither from Livadia, and that the reception they had met with at Pesth might have led him to drop them now, but certainly he had made no mention of any such proposals here.

The language used by Count Schouvaloff to him had, M. Waddington told me, been of an eminently pacific character. He had said that he had no fears that the affairs of Afghanistan would give rise to any complications between Russia and Great Britain, and he had most distinctly declared that the Emperor was firmly resolved to execute the Treaty of Berlin, and had observed that His Majesty saw only two questions which could cause any difficulty in carrying the Treaty punctually into effect.

These two questions were the settlement of the Montenegrin frontier, and the measures to be taken in order to provide for the safety of the Christians on the withdrawal of the Russian troops from the several districts in Turkey.

M. Waddington told me in conclusion, that Count Schouvaloff had said that he was going on to London on Friday or Saturday next (to-morrow or the next day).

I am, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 494.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 935.)
Paris, November 21, 1878.

My Lord,

I AM informed, on undoubted authority, that so lately as the day before yesterday the Russian Government was still opposing obstacles to the Dobrudscha's being taken possession of by Roumania.

It appears that that Government requires that before being put into possession of the Dobrudscha the Roumanians shall enter into a special Convention respecting the Russian communications across that province. The demands of the Russian Government would seem to be that it shall have the right of maintaining and building batteries along the coast, of constructing military roads, military posts, landing-places, and so forth.

I understand that the answer given by the Roumanian Government to these demands is that the Dobrudscha having become Roumanian territory, they are willing to apply to it the transit arrangements to which they had agreed in Roumania proper, but to apply them only for the time prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin, and no longer.

I understand that the Russians make difficulties about accepting this, which is the sole concession the Roumanians can make to them.

The Russians are stated to be in the meantime fortifying Kustendje, and to have more than forty cannon in position along the coast.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 495.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1017.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 21, 1878.*

ALTHOUGH Count Zichy expressed himself satisfied to Grand Vizier with the Porte's answer about Bosnia and Novi-Bazar, I am informed that Count Andrassy refuses to accept it. Council of Ministers will meet to-morrow to discuss the matter again.

No. 496.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1018.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 21, 1878.*

REPORTS from British Vice-Consuls at Gallipoli and Rodosto confirm news of Russian advance to Hairoboli, as I reported in my telegram No. 1010.

No. 497.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 63.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 21, 1878.*

MESSRS. WALLACE AND WALPOLE just returned from journey to Carlowo, Shipka, Kyzanlik, and other places. Rumours of their maltreatment having been spread about, I applied to Russian authorities, who promptly took measures for their safety.

These proved unnecessary.

I agree with you about the deputations, but I think that measures should be uniform for all Commissioners, and I feel averse to justifying any pretext for saying that we will not listen to free expression of opinion.

No. 498.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 22, 1878, 6 P.M.*

COUNT MUNSTER has pressed me very earnestly not to recognize Roumania until Jewish disabilities removed. Finding me disinclined to wait, he has pressed French Ambassador to combine with Germany and isolate England on the point. I mentioned to him that our reason for wishing to recognize was not indifference to religious liberty, but because Russia was imposing on Roumania conditions of a military right of way lasting beyond the nine months, and the fortification by Russia of mouths of the Danube.

I urged on German Ambassador that, if Germany wanted us not to recognize, they ought to discourage these Russian pretensions which were most dangerous to the peace of Europe.

No. 499.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 22, 1878, 6 A.M.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday I am consulting Austrian Government.

No. 500.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 22, 1878, 6 A.M.

FOLLOWING from Mr. White:—

"Please ascertain whether Count Andrassy will concur with us in advising Roumania to occupy."

No. 501.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 22, 1878, 6·10 A.M.

THE news which reaches us from every quarter makes most improbable the Sultan's fear of a early renewal of the war. If it took place material assistance from England must depend on the nature of the quarrel out of which it arose. We have already pledged the assistance of England in case Russia refuses to evacuate at stipulated time, and I hope shortly to be able to authorize you to make a written communication in that sense, if necessary. We could not make a promise to go to war in a contingency not closely defined. Anything that comes from Osman Pasha is suspicious; and I cannot help fancying that he sees Russia is exhausted and believes Turkey might gain by forcing England into war.

No. 502.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22, 12·20 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November* 22, 1878, 11·28 A.M.

IS your despatch No. 778 of yesterday's date to be communicated to French Minister for Foreign Affairs? It contained no instructions on that point.

No. 503.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 22, 1878.

I HAVE spoken to M. de Bülow in the sense of your telegram of last night, respecting recognition of Roumania.

His Excellency regrets that the German Government are unable, in the present instance, to adopt the course proposed by your Lordship, and still hopes Her Majesty's Government may withhold their recognition until the Jewish disabilities are removed.

German Government are bound by a declaration made to the Reichstag, and cannot act otherwise, even if all the other Powers recognize Roumania before the Act of Emancipation is passed.

No. 504.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November* 22, 1878.

NOW that the project of the fresh Convention has been given up, discussion still going on between [? Russian Minister] and Roumania with reference to rights accruing to Russian Government from Article XXII of Treaty, and by Convention of April 1877.

The latter, Roumania very properly maintains, contains provisions merely for a state of war abrogated by peace, and not by any means applicable to the present condition of affairs.

No. 505.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November* 22, 1878.

MAY I officially recognize assumption of title of Highness by Prince Milan in the name of Her Majesty the Queen? This form has been adopted in the case of all the other Sovereigns.

French Agent having already notified in writing recognition of new title by his Government, I have verbally intimated the willingness of Her Majesty's Government to do the same.

No. 506.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1019.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 22, 1878.

FOLLOWING figures received from Consul Blunt, dated yesterday:—

"With reference to my telegram of 18th, Governor-General of Salonica telegraphed to Commander-in-chief that he is ordered by Porte to concert measures with him for placing Bashi-Bazouks on military footing.

"Commander-in-chief [? asserts] that he entirely disapproves employing these irregulars under any condition, but has no objection to supplying arms to Mahommedan villagers in exposed and unprotected places near Bulgarian and Eastern Roumelian frontiers, to be used only in defence of their own villages against Bulgarian inroads and cruelties.

"Telegrams from Salonica, Uskup, Drama, and other places inform Commander-in-chief that Bulgarian insurgent forces are concentrated in large numbers all along Turkish borders: 4,000 of them are said to be assembled at [? Batch], preparing to attack Nevrokop, in north of Macedonia."

No. 507.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 1020.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November* 22, 1878.

COLONEL HOME proposes at my request, in pursuance of your instructions, to send one of his officers to join the Commission for the delimitation of the frontier between Turkey and Russia in Asia, and requests instructions as to disposal of remainder of his staff during the winter months.

No. 508.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

Foreign Office, November 22, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

MY despatch No. 778 of yesterday is to be communicated to the French Government.

No. 509.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1449.)

Foreign Office, November 22, 1878.

Sir,

ANY fears which the Sultan may entertain of an early renewal of the war with Russia seem to Her Majesty's Government most unlikely to be realized, judging by the news they receive from all quarters.—

If their calculations should prove unfortunately to be incorrect, the question of the Porte receiving material assistance from England must depend on the nature of the dispute which causes such renewal of the war.

The active support of this country to the Sultan has been already pledged, in the event of Russia refusing to evacuate Turkish territory at the time stipulated by the Treaty, and I trust to be enabled before long to authorize you, in the name of Her Majesty's Government, to make a written communication to this purport, should it be necessary.

Her Majesty's Government could not bind themselves by a promise to go to war in a contingency not closely defined.

They would be inclined not to place too much reliance on anything coming from Osman Pasha, who, I cannot help thinking, is impressed with the idea that Russia is exhausted, and with the belief that if England were forced into war it would be a gain to Turkey.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 510.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1458.)

Foreign Office, November 27, 1878.

Sir,

I UNDERSTAND from your Excellency's telegram of yesterday that the language employed by the Russian Ambassadors in London and Constantinople do not correspond with regard to the conditions upon which the Russian Government are prepared to withdraw their troops from the Turkish territory outside Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria.

Nothing was said to me last Monday by Count Schouvaloff implying that Russia would insist upon the execution of a definitive Treaty between Russia and Turkey before this movement takes place.

Count Schouvaloff's declaration to me, which is embodied in my despatch to your Excellency No. 1453 of the 25th instant, and was also communicated to your Excellency at the time by telegraph, was quite distinct, and, as he has so recently been with the Emperor at Livadia, I am bound to suppose that he is thoroughly acquainted with His Majesty's wishes.

In view of the differences in the language used by Prince Labanoff and Count Schouvaloff, I have to instruct your Excellency strongly to advise the Porte not to sign any agreement with Russia as to the withdrawal of her troops until all doubts on the matter are cleared up.

Either there are some unexplained intentions, or Prince Labanoff has been so imperfectly instructed that his assurances are valueless.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 511.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 587.)

Foreign Office, November 22, 1878.

My Lord,

MR. PLUNKETT was instructed, in my despatch No. 462 of the 2nd September last, to represent to the Russian Government the case of Hadji Arif Agha, who had been arrested at Philippopolis by the Russian authorities, and by them condemned to death, under the circumstances then explained, in the hope that they would consent to remit or to respite the capital sentence.

On the 24th September Mr. Plunkett was informed by Baron Osten Sacken that the sentence of death passed upon Hadji Arif Agha had been commuted into some lighter punishment.

A petition has recently been received by the European Commissioners for the Organization of Eastern Roumelia from the sons of Hadji Shaban Agha and Hadji Arif Agha, a copy of which has been forwarded to the Foreign Office by Sir H. Drummond Wolff, and a copy of the same is transmitted herewith for your Excellency's information.

The memorialists represent that an amnesty has been accorded by the Czar to both the above-named unfortunate individuals, conditionally upon their leaving Roumelia, never to return. Notwithstanding, however, this act of Imperial clemency, it is stated that fifteen days after its announcement both the prisoners, who are between 70 and 80 years of age, were still detained in chains hand and foot at Sofia, and that they were about to be sent into exile in Russia.

I have now to instruct your Excellency to renew, on behalf of Hadji Shaban Agha and Hadji Arif Agha, the representations which Mr. Plunkett has already addressed to the Russian Government with reference to the case of Hadji Arif Agha, and you will endeavour to induce them to take immediate steps to obtain the release of these prisoners from imprisonment at Sofia in accordance with the amnesty granted to them by the Emperor.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 512.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 500.)

Foreign Office, November 22, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT MÜNSTER has again reverted to the question of the recognition of the independence of Roumania, respecting which he spoke to me on the 12th instant, as I informed your Excellency in my despatch No. 487 A of that date, and has very earnestly pressed upon me that Her Majesty's Government should delay their recognition until the Roumanian Government should, in compliance with the XLIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, have removed the disabilities of the Jewish population.

I find that, on ascertaining from me that Her Majesty's Government would be disinclined to adopt his suggestion, he has urged upon the French Ambassador the expediency of France combining upon this question with Germany, and thus isolating England.

I explained to him that Her Majesty's Government were far from being indifferent to the establishment of religious liberty in Roumania, and that, if they were considering the propriety of recognizing her independence, their doing so must be construed to imply that they would not expect the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin to be fully executed; but their doubts as to the expediency of withholding recognition were due to their knowledge that Russia was endeavouring to impose upon her, as the condition of her occupation of the Dobrudscha, the concession of a military right of way for Russian troops through that territory, lasting beyond the term within which, under the XXIInd Article of the Treaty, Roumanian territory is to be completely evacuated, and the passage of the Russian army is to cease; and that she was further demanding the right to fortify the mouths of the Danube.

I said that if it was the wish of the German Government that England should defer the recognition, I trusted they would discourage these pretensions on the

part of Russia by which the peace of Europe would not fail to be seriously endangered.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 513.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 596.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 22, 1878.

MR. WHITE having stated in the telegram, of which a copy is inclosed, that he had been asked by the Roumanian Government to inquire by telegraph whether Her Majesty's Government would recommend them to occupy the territory the frontier of which has been traced by the Bulgarian Delimitation Commission, I have to-day telegraphed to your Excellency requesting you to ascertain whether Count Andrassy will unite with Her Majesty's Government in recommending the Roumanian Government to occupy the territory to which their inquiry refers.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 514.

Consul Sandwith to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 117. Political. [B.B.]
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, November* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have written to his Excellency Sir A. H. Layard, reporting the present state of the island, and the persistence of the Sphakians in their claims, which were explained in my despatches Nos. 112 and 114.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

Inclosure in No. 514.

Consul Sandwith to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Canea, Crete, November* 11, 1878.

ON the 5th instant I had the honour to receive a telegram from your Excellency, dated the previous day, informing me that the Firman was ready, but that it was to be submitted to the European Commission for Roumelia, in compliance with Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin. Your Excellency adds, however, that the Porte was not bound to consult it or to take its advice, and that you hope, therefore, that it would be sent very soon. Your Excellency is of opinion that the Grand Vizier is inclined to name Photiades Bey Governor-General, and you say that you have represented to his Highness the expediency of attending to the two demands of the Sphakians, which I had mentioned in my despatch No. 135.

The speedy arrival of the Sultan's Firman will facilitate the settlement of many affairs of pressing importance, of which none is more necessary than the convocation of the General Assembly, the voting for the members of which will necessarily occupy some time. Their presence will greatly strengthen the hands of the Vali in devising measures for the general good.

The administrative and judicial authorities throughout the island have, with the exception of those of the Caza of Sphakia, now been temporarily appointed, and they seem, on the whole, to have been judiciously chosen, though doubtless there will hereafter be room for making some changes.

Costaki Pasha has retained or reinstated in their posts a considerable number of the former functionaries, and has put in places of trust some of the leaders of the insurrection, who might be considered as representing the general feeling of the country. Nothing less would have satisfied public expectation, and these men will now be bound by the ties of interest to the new order of things.

The organization of the gendarmerie makes scarcely any way, owing to the want of ready money. Poor men who would be disposed to enter the corps are now gaining their shilling a-day by olive picking, and they cannot afford to give up that employment unless assured of receiving their pay regularly.

Agents have been appointed to collect the tithes, but little oil is yet ready for market, and where the tithes have been offered for sale there is no great readiness to make tenders until the country shall have returned to its normal state, and the seal of authority has been placed on the late concessions by the publication of the Firman and the appointment of the Vali.

With regard to the claims of the Sphakians, I was happy to find, when I had last the honour of seeing Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha, that his Excellency, probably in consequence of instructions from the Grand Vizier due to your Excellency's representations, was disposed to grant them. On one point only he is unwilling to yield. He is of opinion that their flocks of sheep should continue to contribute the small tax to which they are liable, on the same footing as those of the other islanders. The Sphakians assert that they own but 10,000 sheep, the tax on which, amounting to 9 paras a head (about $\frac{1}{2}d.$), would bring in the paltry sum of only 21*l.* Turkish a-year. Were they, as is probable, more than twice as numerous, they would not have to pay more than 50*l.* Turkish per annum.

I have used what arguments I could to overcome their repugnance to paying this tax, like the rest, but have found them obstinate, their repugnance arising, not from the amount of the tax (for they are willing that their sheep should be reckoned at 20,000 or 30,000), but from the visits of the collectors.

His Excellency the Commissioner declares that, should this privilege be conceded, it will be the source of many abuses, and that proprietors of other flocks (for the Sphakian sheep find pasture during winter in the surrounding districts) will induce the collectors to enter theirs as belonging to Sphakians, thus entailing a loss on the revenue of perhaps 10,000*l.* Turkish a-year. When it is borne in mind that the total produce of the sheep tax only brings in about 2,200*l.* Turkish, reckoning them at 1,000,000, his Excellency is evidently exaggerating the importance of this impost.

The Governor-General, who is also disposed to resist the pretensions of the mountaineers, thinks that a way out of the difficulty may be found by insisting that their sheep should be counted every two years, and the rate levied accordingly. I have proposed this compromise to them, and they leave to-day to consult their countrymen on the matter; but I fear Mukhtar Pasha will not even yield even thus much. The Vali seems to think that, if the rest of the districts resist the pretensions of the Sphakians, the latter will give in; but my fear is lest they be tempted to raise disturbances, in which case they would infallibly be joined by the vagabonds of the surrounding districts, who love to lead a lawless life, and have nothing whatever to lose. Any compromise come to by fair means is better than running the risk of a disturbance for interests so trifling, though the Sphakians are certainly to blame for insisting on a privilege likely to create the jealousy of their fellow islanders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) THOMAS B. SANDWITH.

No. 515.

Major Wilson, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 22.)

(No. 16.)
My Lord, *Vranja, November* 12, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the Boundary Commission arrived at this place on the 25th October, and that on the 26th an informal meeting was held at which it was decided that, as the sketch of the ground on the left bank of the Morava, which was to have been prepared for the Commission by Servian officers, had not been completed, the work of delimitating the frontier should commence on the right bank of that river at the confluence of the Koinska. On the 27th a reconnaissance was made of the ground on the right bank of the Morava, when it was found that, owing to the existence of two streams, not shown on the Austrian Staff Map, between the Koinska of the Treaty, and the stream which falls into the Morava near Neradovce, there was no true line of water-parting between those streams, and that it would consequently be impossible to follow literally the words of the Treaty; there was also some doubt as to the true names of the several

streams, though no difference of opinion arose as to the position on the ground of the point shown on the Austrian map as the confluence of the Koïnska with the Morava.

On the same day a meeting of the Commission was held, the proceedings of which are described in the accompanying Protocol; the result was that the Commission decided to identify the confluence of the Krcheviska with the Morava as the point indicated on the Austrian Staff Map, and to follow the line of water-parting from that point to the Swa Ilijia Planina; the line indicated in a paper which I handed to the President at the meeting. Knowing that certain claims would be put forward in the vicinity of Prepolac by the Servian Commissioner, I was anxious at the time to obtain the proper nomenclature of the streams and establish the principle that, in case of doubt, the Austrian Staff Map should be followed.

On the 28th the work of marking the boundary commenced, the method adopted being to place posts at certain intervals on the line of water-parting and consider straight lines between those points as the new frontier; this work was continued on the 29th to a point between Swa Ilijia Planina and Mount Kljuc, but as several disputes arose respecting the small concessions on either side necessitated by the system of straight lines, a meeting was held on the 30th, Protocol attached, at which it was decided to follow in future, as nearly as possible, the actual line of water-parting.

On the 31st October, and 1st and 2nd November a reconnaissance was made of the Karpina Planina and the ground on the left bank of the Morava. It was found that the mountain feature, called Karpina Planina on the Austrian Staff Map, is intersected by a deep narrow valley, the Davidovatz, not shown on that map, which drains into the Morava, and a question arose as to the spur, ("contrefort,") by which the frontier should descend into the Morava valley. At a meeting on the 3rd November this point was discussed, when six of the Commissioners were in favour of a spur on the right bank of the Davidovatz, and myself and the Turkish Commissioner in favour of a spur on the left bank; the Turkish Commissioner expressing his intention to refer the question to his Government at Constantinople, a précis of the Protocol of this meeting, which has not yet been finally approved by the Commission, is attached.

Feeling that the question was not one which it was necessary to refer to your Lordship, I represented to the Turkish Commissioner, after the meeting, that a reference to Constantinople would entail great loss of time, and that any delay in the delimitation of this section of the boundary, at this advanced season of the year, might render it difficult to obtain the withdrawal of the Servian troops from the position they now occupy beyond the frontier. I also said that I thought he had overestimated the military importance of the upper Davidovatz Valley.

The result was that another meeting was held on the 4th, when the subject was again discussed, and a line of frontier adopted, not very different to that proposed in the accompanying paper which I read at the meeting. The attached sketch, by Lieutenant Ross of Bladensburg, shows the lines proposed and that finally adopted.

I am glad to be able to inform your Lordship that the boundary is now marked on the ground from Poljanica, across the Vranja Morava Valley to the Swa Ilijia Planina, and thence for some distance in the direction of Mount Kljuc.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. W. WILSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 515.

Protocol No. 2.

À VRANJA aujourd'hui Dimanche, 27 Octobre, à 7 heures du soir, la Commission a tenu une deuxième séance après la reconnaissance opérée le même jour sur la rive droite de la Morava.

Etaient presents les mêmes membres qu'à la séance précédente.

La discussion s'étant ouverte sur la question de savoir quelle ligne doit suivre la frontière à partir du confluent de la Koïnska avec la Morava, la Commission a tout d'abord reconnu que l'exécution littérale du Traité de Berlin, qui parle de la ligne de partage des eaux entre la Koïnska, et le ruisseau qui se jette auprès du village Neradoveo, était rendue impossible à cause de divers cours d'eau situés entre les précédents et non-indiqués sur la carte Autrichienne.

M. le Commissaire Ottoman exprime le désir que la frontière suive une ligne

droite, qui serait située à égale distance de la Koïnska de la carte de l'Etat-Major Autrichien, et du ruisseau qui se jette auprès du village de Neradovce.

M. le Commissaire d'Allemagne a été d'avis qu'en presence de cette impossibilité la Commission devrait s'inspirer non plus de la lettre du Traité, mais de son intention, qui a été evidemment de laisser à la Turquie tout le bassin de la Koïnska.

M. le Commissaire Anglais fait part de ses propres observations sur le nom faussement attribué à la Rivière Koïnska, mais il propose de suivre la ligne du partage des eaux entre cette dernière rivière et le ruisseau le plus proche situé en aval, dont les eaux se rendent également à la Morava.

Cette opinion est successivement et entièrement adoptée par MM. les Commissaires sauf ceux de la Turquie, qui réservent leur approbation jusqu'au moment où ils auront suffisamment reconnu la chaine du Mont St. Ilia.

Au sujet de la Rivière Koïnska il s'élève une discussion d'où il resulte que ce cours d'eau se nomme aussi Krichavica dans sa partie supérieure, et les Commissaires ne font aucune difficulté d'y reconnaître la Koïnska du Traité, autant plus que les villages Kresavce, Bruseritza, Klinovac, et Dresnica, indiqués sur la carte Autrichienne sont bien situés sur les bords de ce cours d'eau. Cependant M. le Major Wilson pense que le nom de Koïnska est là faussement attribué, et qu'il doit être donné au ruisseau en aval sur les rives duquel est situé le village Koïnska.

La Commission adopte à l'unanimité le point visité par elle sur la rive droite de la Morava, comme celui indiqué par le Traité, c'est-à-dire comme le confluent de la Koïnska avec la Morava; et elle à pris ce point comme départ de ses travaux sur cette rive droite.

Il est enfin décidé que la Commission se rendra le lendemain au point sus-indiqué pour opérer la délimitation définitive de la frontière dans la direction du Mont St. Ilia.

La séance est levée.

Fait à Vranja les jours, mois, et an que dessus.

Inclosure 2 in No. 515.

Paper read at Meeting of Commission of 27th October, 1878.

M. LE MAJOR WILSON ayant fait avec MM. les collègues une reconnaissance du terrain sur la rive droite de la Morava, trouve que le ruisseau qui s'appelle Koïnska sur la carte Autrichienne est en vérité le ruisseau Krichavica ou Krshevichka, et que le ruisseau Koïnska tombe dans la Morava en aval de ce ruisseau; mais il est d'avis que la confluence de la Krichavica ou Krshevichka doit être accepté pour la confluence de la Koïnska du Traité.

Le Traité dit que la frontière doit remonter par la ligne de partage des eaux entre le ruisseau Koïnska et le ruisseau qui tombe dans la Morava près de Neradovce, pour rejoindre la Planina Swa Ilijia au-dessus de Tegovisti. Le Major Wilson trouve que, sur le terrain, il n'y a pas un partage des eaux selon le Traité, mais il est d'avis que la frontière doit remonter de la confluence de la Krichavica ou Krshevichka par le partage des eaux entre ce ruisseau et le Koïnska ou Kostenica pour rejoindre la Planina Swa Ilijia.

(Signé) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.*

Le 27 Octobre, 1878.

Inclosure 3 in No. 515.

Protocol No. 3.

À Vranja le Mercredi, 30 Octobre, 1878, la Commission s'est réunie pour la troisième fois.

Etaient présents les mêmes membres que devant.

La séance était ouverte.

M. le Président lit le Protocole No. 1 qui est adopté et signé par MM. les Commissaires.

Une discussion s'engage sur le mode de procéder dans la délimitation. *M. le Commissaire Anglais* propose de placer des pieux de distance en distance aux points indiqués par la Commission, et puis de laisser aux topographes le soin de suivre ces-

mêmes la ligne du partage des eaux qu'ils traceraient sur le croquis. M. le Major Wilson pense que ce procédé abrégerait les travaux de la Commission et aurait l'avantage d'être plus exact.

Quelques membres de la Commission, tout en reconnaisant ce que ce système offre de bon, pensent qu'il ne pourra être appliqué dans toutes les circonstances.

Le système déjà appliqué des compensations de terrain vient à ce propos en discussion, et il est combattu par *M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie*, qui donne lecture de ses opinions à ce sujet. *M. le Major Billemek* est d'avis que les compensations sont très-difficiles à établir sur le terrain; qu'elles peuvent n'être pas toujours équitables et donner lieu, par conséquence, à des plaintes que la Commission doit faire tous ses efforts pour éviter. *M. le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie* désirerait en conséquence que la partie de délimitation faite d'après des compensations de terrain, sur la rive droite de la Morava, fût révisée.

Les voix sont recueillies sur cette demande et la majorité de la Commission acceptant pour l'avenir l'opinion de M. le Major Billemek, est néanmoins d'avis que la partie déjà délimitée ne sera pas révisée.

La Commission décide ensuite qu'elle opérera le lendemain une reconnaissance de la Kassina-Planina et du Mont St. Ilia. Aussi, de gagner du temps, la Commission couchera le premier jour dans le village de Bresnitza, situé dans la vallée de Truovatz.

La séance est levée.

Inclosure 4 in No. 515.

Précis of Protocol No. 4.—Fourth Sitting, held at Vranja, November 3, 1878.

All the members present.

PROTOCOL No. 2 was read and adopted.

The Turkish Commissioner read a note, in which he requested an explanation from the Russian Commissioner regarding his communication, mentioned in Protocol No. 1, about the topographical works which were to be undertaken by Russian surveyors.

The Russian Commissioner replied that this communication was made to the Commission simply as a matter of information.

The Turkish Commissioner requested that his note should be annexed to the Protocol.

A discussion arose on the general principle which should guide the delimitation of the new line of frontier from the Poljanica to the junction of the Koinska River and the Morava.

The Servian Commissioner was of opinion that the new frontier should follow the watershed between the Truovatz and the Morava, to that spur of the Karpina Planina, situated on the right bank of the Daridovatz stream. Thence to the mouth of the Koinska in such a manner that the whole basin of the Daridovatz stream should belong to Servia.

The Austrian Commissioner agreed to this proposal.

The British Commissioner believed that the line of watershed should be followed, but he considered that the spur of the Karpina Planina, which should be selected to bring the frontier into the Valley of Vranja, was that one which was situated on the left bank of the Daridovatz stream, because that spur was the principal feature of the line of hills. Thence the frontier should be marked by the course of the Daridovatz stream to the village Daridovatz; and thence by a straight line to the mouth of the Koinska. As, however, there were several villages on the stream Daridovatz, Major Wilson proposed that they should not be cut off, and that they should belong to Servia.

The Italian Commissioner took the same view as that of the Servian Commissioner, remarking, however, in answer to Major Wilson's proposition, that he could not agree to his opinion that the frontier might follow the course of a stream. He considered a watershed line necessary, in order to follow the spirit of the Treaty; and thought that if the valley of the Daridovatz were divided for the benefit of Turkey, the Truovatz might also be cut in two and one part given to Servia.

The Russian and Servian Commissioners were of an opinion similar to the Servian Commissioner.

The Turkish Commissioner took another line, he thought that the frontier should

Sketch
of the
MORAVA VALLEY,
NEAR VRANJA.

pass over a spur of the Karpina on the left of the Daridovatz. That, in fact, the Upper Valley of the Daridovatz is necessary for the defence of Turkey in the locality of Vranja.

A discussion arose on these opinions and on the military importance of the Upper Valley of the Daridovatz. Most of the Commissioners are of opinion that it is not necessary for the defence of Turkey. The British Commissioner, however, did not agree to their proposal; and the Ottoman Commissioner declared that before giving in his adhesion, it would be necessary to obtain instructions on the subject from the Porte.

As there was no unanimity of opinion on this point, the Commissioners could come to no conclusion, and for the present delimitation on that part of the frontier was declared suspended.

It was decided finally to proceed with the new frontier towards Kiguc, if the weather permitted.

Inclosure 5 in No. 515.

Sketch of Morava Valley, showing Frontier.

Inclosure 6 in No. 515.

Paper read at Meeting of Commission on the 4th November, 1878.

LA frontière proposée, Protocole 15, par la Commission de Délimitation à Berlin, ayant été rejetée par le Congrès, on a décidé que cette Commission aurait "à déterminer, au sud de Vranja, le tracé d'une ligne qui, laissant la ville à la Serbie, donnera à la Turquie l'espace nécessaire pour assurer la défense de ses possessions." Le Traité décrit cette ligne dans les mots suivants; "Puis," c'est-à-dire de Poljanica, "elle se dirige par le contrefort de la Karpina Planina jusqu'au confluent de la Koinska avec la Morava, traverse cette rivière . . . ."

Le Major Wilson trouve, après une reconnaissance faite avec MM. ses collègues, que le terrain nommé "Karpina Planina" sur la carte Autrichienne est entrecoupé par une vallée, celle de la Davidovce, qui n'est pas montrée sur cette carte. Il est d'avis que, suivant le sens du Traité, la frontière doit suivre le partage des eaux entre la Morava et la Truovce de Poljanica jusqu'au sommet du Mont St. Ilia, et que de ce point elle doit descendre à la Vallée de la Morava par le contrefort sur la rive gauche de la Davidovce, ce contrefort étant à son avis le trait dominant de la Karpina Planina. Du pied de ce contrefort le Major Wilson pense que la frontière doit suivre, en général, le cours du ruisseau Davidovce; mais, comme il ne veut pas diviser les villages sur les deux rives du dit ruisseau, il propose de laisser ces villages avec les terres voisines à la Serbie.

Cependant le Major Wilson ne veut pas retarder les travaux de la Commission à un point si important, et voyant que plusieurs de MM. ses collègues sont d'avis que la frontière doit passer par la rive droite de la Davidovce, il est prêt à concéder une ligne sur cette rive qui ne sera pas très-éloignée de ce ruisseau.

Le Major Wilson propose comme frontière une ligne, qui de Poljanica au col entre la Davidovce et la Truovce, suit le partage des eaux entre la Morava et la Truovce, et de ce col un partage des eaux qui, laissant le bassin supérieur de la Davidovce à la Serbie, descend à la Vallée de la Morava par le contrefort le plus rapproché à la Davidovce. Du pied de ce contrefort la frontière doit suivre une ligne droite jusqu'à la tête du petit ruisseau sur lequel se trouve le village de Karabnik, et de ce point le cours du dit ruisseau à la Morava, laissant le village et les terres de Karabnik à la Turquie, et les terres de Dolni Vertogosch à la Serbie.

(Signé) C. W. WILSON, *Major, R.E.*

Le 4 Novembre, 1878.

No. 516.

Consul R. Reade to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 21. Consular.)
My Lord, *Rustchuk, November 15, 1878.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your Lordship's despatch No. 2 of the 31st ultimo, by which your Lordship has been pleased to convey to me the approval of Her Majesty's Government of my proceedings generally under the very difficult circumstances with which I have had to contend at Rustchuk during the late events in this quarter.

Your Lordship has also been pleased to honour me by expressing the lively satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have received the testimony of the Ottoman Government to the services I have rendered to the unfortunate victims of the late war.

As regards my humble endeavours on behalf of the unhappy refugees from the late war, it was impossible, my Lord, to resist the admiration as well as compassion inspired by the unparalleled sufferings of a truly brave, honest, and patient people, from no fault of their own, to which I was an eye-witness, and the sight of which will never be effaced from my memory.

I beg to tender my deepest acknowledgments to your Lordship for the honour conferred on me, and to remain, &c.

(Signed) R. READE.

No. 517.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 800.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 16, 1878.*

AS directed by your Lordship's telegram, I last night asked Count Andrassy his opinion about the Turkish Circular respecting the definitive Treaty of Peace which Russia wishes the Turkish Government to conclude, and his Excellency said that he had already intimated to the Porte that it was not called upon to make any new Treaty, and that he had expressed the same opinion to Count Schouvaloff.

He considers that this view of the question is fully borne out by the words of the Treaty of Berlin, which, referring to the war indemnity fixed by the Treaty of San Stefano, allude to the arrangements to be made between the two parties respecting its details, but make no mention of any fresh Treaty to be concluded by them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 518.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 802.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 16, 1878.*

I ASKED Count Andressy whether he had spoken to Count Schouvaloff about the Convention for the passage of troops through the Dobrudscha, which his Government was endeavouring to obtain from Roumania.

The Ambassador professed his entire ignorance of any such demand having been made by his Government and Count Andrassy seemed satisfied that he had not heard of it.

I said that whether Count Schouvaloff were aware of it or not there could be no doubt of the demand being energetically pressed upon the Roumanian Government.

Count Andrassy considers, not only that the Russian Government have no possible right to insist upon such a Convention as a condition of their giving up the territory assigned to Roumania, but he holds that the Powers could not recognize the validity of a Convention which would set aside the decisions they had come to at Berlin respecting the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

I understood him to say that he had conveyed this opinion to the Roumanian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 519.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 804. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 16, 1878.*

I HAD a long conversation yesterday evening with Count Andrassy, who said he was very desirous of seeing me, as he wished to speak with great frankness, but, at the same time, in the strictest confidence, about all that had just passed between Count Schouvaloff and himself. What he was about to say was, of course, for your Lordship's own especial information, and in the peculiar position in which Count Beust is at this moment, he preferred conveying it to you through me rather than through that Ambassador.

With this preface he proceeded to say that Count Schouvaloff had called upon him in full uniform, wearing his decorations and ribbon, and had at once stated that he had come in that manner as evidence that he was not paying an informal visit as a casual traveller, but was there officially as an Envoy of the Czar. He was instructed to explain fully the views and position of the Emperor, and to declare, in the first place, His Majesty's determination loyally to carry out all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin, but he was to place before the Austro-Hungarian Government certain considerations, the validity of which he hoped they would recognize, and therefore refuse to join in any protest which some other Government might perhaps be inclined to make against the prolonged maintenance of the Russian troops in their present positions. The first of these considerations was that the Turkish Government had not yet concluded with Russia the definitive Treaty upon which, according to the Treaty of San Stefano, the evacuation of the Ottoman territory was made dependent; and the second was that it had been found that as the Imperial army retired the populations of the districts that were being evacuated followed the retiring troops in crowds, and the Emperor regarded it as a point of honour not to abandon them.

Count Andrassy replied that, according to his opinion, the true point of honour that ought to guide the Emperor was the literal execution of every part of the engagements he had taken by the Treaty of Berlin. His Majesty's troops at this moment occupied positions where they had no right to be, for he had no hesitation in declaring that there was not the slightest justification for pretending that their withdrawal was dependent upon a Treaty to be made with Turkey, and in support of this opinion he relied not only upon what had been perfectly understood at Berlin—although that ought to be sufficient—but upon the terms and plain meaning of the Treaty itself.

To Count Andrassy's surprise Count Schouvaloff abandoned that argument without hesitation, merely stating that he did not believe all other Governments shared his Excellency's views, and he stated that the Emperor had entirely disavowed the language held by Prince Labanoff to the Porte in reference to it. Count Andrassy observed to me, *en passant*, that while, on the one side, it was being said that the Emperor disavowed Prince Labanoff's language, that Ambassador was reported from Constantinople to be repeating it.

He then proceeded to say that he had told Count Schouvaloff that the argument for prolonging the occupation on the ground of the exodus of the populations was quite as inadmissible as the other. In some respects it was even worse; for if the occupation was only dependent on a new Treaty with the Porte it might be put an end to by the conclusion of one, but it would become indefinite or permanent if allowed to depend on a disposition of the populations to follow the army if it retired.

Count Schouvaloff declared that this objection had not struck him, and asked how the difficulty could be got over, upon which Count Andrassy answered that it could be got over by the Russian commanders taking the measures which it was in their power to adopt to prevent the emigration of the people, and by placing in the hands of the European Commission sufficient authority to keep them back and to provide for their safety.

The Ambassador said he could give no opinion respecting this suggestion without reference to the Emperor; but, finding that his first arguments had produced no effect,

he adopted the only one which had any shadow of weight, by alleging that, as Turkey had not fulfilled her obligations towards Montenegro, Russia was not bound to carry out all hers towards Turkey.

Count Andrassy says that, in reply to this, he retorted that Russia was not in a position to entitle her to bring this reproach against the Porte, for if we inquired which of the two was the most in default in executing the Treaty it would not be found to be Turkey, which had evacuated Batoum and Varna, while Russia maintained her army in the vicinity of Constantinople, and had not so much as removed a stone of the Danubian fortresses, which, according to the Treaty of Berlin, were to be demolished immediately.

It would be the height of injustice to call authoritatively upon Turkey at once to cede Podgoritza to Montenegro, and thus to satisfy every one of the Russian demands, if at the same time she was to be left with a large Russian force upon territory that ought to have been evacuated by this time. If the Porte could be guaranteed that simultaneously with, or immediately upon, the abandonment of the territory to be ceded to Montenegro the Russian force in Turkey would be reduced to the stipulated strength, there would be a ground for requiring the immediate fulfilment of an engagement, in respect to which there were undoubtedly difficulties of a serious nature.

According to Count Andrassy's report of this conversation, which I have endeavoured to repeat to your Lordship as accurately as possible, he would seem to have expressed himself to the Russian Ambassador with a frankness that left nothing to be desired, telling him that this Government cling to the strict execution of the Treaty of Berlin to the very letter, and not concealing the opinion that the Russian Government were not carrying out their portions of its stipulations as scrupulously as the other Powers had a right to expect. I believe, therefore, that we may have the satisfaction of feeling assured of the complete failure of this renewed attempt to induce the Austro-Hungarian Government to adopt a different line of policy from that of Her Majesty's Government, and that Count Schouvaloff must have gone away with the conviction that the two will be likely to be found acting in strict concert in reference to the different questions arising out of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 520.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 806.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 16, 1878.*

I MENTIONED last night to Count Andrassy that the Turkish Ambassador had told me that he believed his Government now to wish to conclude a Convention with Austria respecting the occupation of Bosnia, and that he had informed them that he thought his Excellency would still be disposed to do so.

Count Andrassy said, as I had told my Turkish colleague he would be sure to do, that it was now too late to talk about any Convention in regard to that part of Bosnia over which the Austrian administration was to extend, but he was still not only willing, but anxious to come to an arrangement in reference to the Novi-Bazar district, in which the Treaty of Berlin gave the Imperial Government the right of garrison. This Treaty right he cannot abandon, and he wishes that the arrangements respecting it should be come to as speedily as possible, and should be of such a character as publicly to show the existence of a good understanding between Austria and Turkey.

He cannot conceive how it is that the Sultan's Ministers do not perceive the advantages of having a friendly Austrian flag alongside their own colours. He is indifferent about the strength of the Austro-Hungarian garrisons in that district, but the presence of the flag would be a sufficient security against any annoyance from neighbouring populations, and it would enable the Porte, if the necessity should arise, to withdraw a portion of its troops from that quarter, in order to send them to others where their presence might be more urgently required.

He would be found, he said, ready to accept any reasonable proposals of the Porte in reference to such a Convention, and in reply to my question whether it might not be possible to include in it some mention of the protection to be given to

the persons, property, and faith of the Mussulmans in Bosnia proper, he said that he thought it might be done, and that arrangements might be made for having Turkish Commissioners to receive the guns and other material belonging to the Porte.

From the whole tenour of his Excellency's language there is every reason to feel confident that if an understanding could be come to between the two Governments their relations might speedily become such as to be eminently advantageous to Turkey, but, on the other hand, if the Porte should insist upon putting into the Convention conditions that are here regarded as inadmissible, it will not be considered as having fulfilled the obligations imposed upon it by the Treaty of Berlin, or as entitled to expect from Austria the support which might otherwise be given.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 521.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 808. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 16, 1878.*

AS your Lordship had left it to my discretion to communicate to, or to withhold from, Count Andrassy the promise made by Her Majesty's Government to the Sultan to co-operate with him in compelling the Russian evacuation in the month of May, if the Porte had on its side fulfilled the whole of its Treaty obligations, I abstained from informing him of it, either through Mr. Monson or by writing, in order that, upon seeing his Excellency myself, I might judge what it was best to do.

The confidence with which he seemed determined to act towards Her Majesty's Government when he informed me of the particulars of Count Schouvaloff's mission, convinced me that it would be right to show that Her Majesty's Government reposed the same in him; the more especially as the engagement taken to the Sultan was not unlikely through some other channel to reach Count Andrassy, who, if not previously informed of it by your Lordship, would probably take it as an evidence of distrust that might check the disposition to act as cordially with us as he now seems anxious to do.

Your Lordship will therefore, I hope, be of opinion that it was best to make the communication, but I did not think it necessary to say that it had been made to the Roumanian Government. As I informed your Lordship by telegraph, he said that it was of too important a nature for him to be able to make any observation upon it till he had spoken to the Emperor, but he inquired whether the Convention or arrangement which, according to the Treaty, was to be made about the occupation of Bosnia and the Novi-Bazar district was among the obligations of the Porte upon the execution of which the co-operation of Her Majesty's Government was to be made dependent.

I simply replied that this support had been promised to the Sultan on the condition of his fulfilment of the whole of his Treaty obligations, without either specifying or excepting any, but I did not discuss the question he had raised, upon which, however, much might be said.

The Treaty no doubt lays down that the two Powers are to arrange the details connected with the occupation, but it nowhere determines that the Porte is to accept any Convention or arrangement upon which Austria should insist, and there would be a palpable injustice in assuming beforehand that, if one is not made, the whole blame of it must necessarily be on the side of Turkey; and that question could only be fairly judged after the points on which the negotiation broke down were fully known.

In my opinion, indeed, the provisions of the Treaty were not strictly followed in the first instance by Austria, which sent her troops into Bosnia even before the ratifications were exchanged, and when it could not be said that a reasonable time had been afforded for the negotiation of a Convention, though the conditions insisted upon at that time by the Porte gave little hope of an understanding.

I have been induced to write at some length upon this subject from perceiving, as I reported in another despatch, that, as long as this Convention is not concluded, the Austrian Government will not regard the Porte as having performed its Treaty obligations, and because I believe the course that is likely to be followed by this Government in regard to Turkey will very largely depend upon this question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 522.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 810.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 16, 1878.*

THE Hungarian Prime Minister, M. Tisza, made yesterday in the Lower House of the Diet, in the course of the debate on the Address, a speech upon the whole past policy of the Government as regards the Eastern question. The object of this policy was twofold: first, to preserve Turkey as a good neighbour (without, however, guaranteeing her former integrity), and in doing so to ameliorate the condition of the various nationalities subject to the Porte; and, secondly, in case this should not be practicable, to prevent her falling into the hands of one Power, as that Power would of necessity be Russia. M. Tisza, in a long review of the action of the Government from the date of the Andrassy note to that of the Berlin Congress, argued that the policy thus sketched had been consistently followed. He admitted that this policy had had but little effect upon Turkey; but he attributed this to the isolation in which Austria-Hungary found herself, and declared that if she had decided upon any other course she would have been forced to engage single-handed in a war with Russia. M. Tisza justified this declaration by the assertion that the effect of the "atrocity meetings" had been to make it impossible for England to interfere by arms. No other Power was at liberty to act, and the result would have been that the Empire would have been involved in a war which would have cost an incalculable amount of blood and treasure, and which, if successful, would have alienated the Christians in the East, and entailed a permanent antagonism with Russia. Thus the Eastern question would not have in any way become easier of solution, and, however gratifying such a policy might have been to the warlike aspirations of the Hungarians, its execution would have been a proof of indiscretion and want of political foresight.

The Imperial Government had from the outbreak of hostilities reserved to itself the right of making its voice heard whenever peace was made. They had maintained this principle by the refusal to acquiesce in the preliminaries of San Stefano; and the Minister proceeded to point out the differences between the provisions of that instrument and the stipulations of the Treaty finally agreed to by the Congress at Berlin. As for the accusation that the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina was a surprise, and that the Government had decided upon this step without the approval of the country, M. Tisza said that in England the Government had asked for a grant of money without stating to Parliament that they intended to bring troops from India, or to occupy Cyprus, and guarantee the integrity of Asiatic Turkey. In such momentous transactions Governments were bound to accept such responsibilities; nevertheless, the charges against the Imperial Government had hardly any foundation in fact, as the Ministers had always been careful to explain, and had done so repeatedly; that their policy would be never to acquiesce in any arrangements which would prejudice the vital interests of the Monarchy, and they had frequently admitted that in defence of those interests an occupation of the provinces might become necessary. At any rate, the new Chamber had been elected since the decisions of the Berlin Congress in regard to the occupation of Bosnia had become public, and he was content to abide by the decision of that Chamber, which must be much more competent to give an opinion than a Diet which was rapidly approaching its legal term, and could not so accurately represent the feeling of the country as a newly-elected Parliament must be taken to do.

Finally, M. Tisza expressed his conviction that if all the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin were faithfully and loyally carried out, the aim of the Government policy, which, as he had stated, was to prevent the preponderance of any single Power in Eastern affairs, would be realized. He hoped that these stipulations would be punctually observed by all the Powers, and that the peace of Europe would be thus preserved; but if any Power resisted their execution, Austria-Hungary, which has brought her interests into harmony with those of Europe, will not stand alone in the fight that may ensue. The policy of the Government would always be to maintain the just influence of the Monarchy in the east of Europe, and hitherto that policy had been carried out at a very moderate expense both in men and money.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 523.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 811. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 17, 1878.*

M. BALATCHANO, the Roumanian Minister, called upon me last night to say that he had just come to Pesth, by direction of his Government, to inform Count Andrassy of the demands being pressed upon them by Russia respecting a military passage through the Dobrudscha, and to ask his Excellency's views of the course that they should adopt.

The demands consist of a recognition to Russia of an indefinite right of passage for troops, of the right of making a military road with established stations, and of constructing and holding certain batteries, with stone jetties on the sea and on the Danube, and it seems to have been intimated that till these conditions are complied with the Roumanian Government will not be permitted to take possession of the country.

An offer of M. Cogalniceano's to allow the passage of troops through the Dobrudscha for the same period as was fixed for it through Roumania by the Treaty of Berlin had been rejected as insufficient, and M. Balatchano asked how I looked upon the right of his Government to enter into possession of their new territory, and also what course I should recommend them to follow in the position in which they are placed.

I said that, with regard to the first part of his question, it seemed to be indisputable that, as Roumania was to receive Dobrudscha in compensation for the cession of Bessarabia, she was entitled to it as a matter of right as soon as the latter province was made over to Russia.

With respect to his second question, I thought the best thing his Government could do would be to lay the case fully before all the different Governments, and to ask their opinions upon it. That Her Majesty's Government had already intimated to the Government of Prince Charles that they would give them the fullest moral support in insisting on their rights to the Dobrudscha without the condition of giving a military passage to the Russians. And my advice to him was to recommend his Government not to give way upon it, adding, as a matter of personal opinion, without any knowledge of that which your Lordship may hold, that it is not even within the competence of his Government to conclude such a Convention as is proposed, which would be at variance with the conditions upon which the Powers had agreed that the Dobrudscha should be incorporated in the Principality.

M. Balatchano said he hoped Count Andrassy might hold equally plain language, as it would make the course of his Government clear.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 524.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 812. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Buda-Pesth, November 18, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 811, Confidential, of yesterday, reporting a conversation I had had with M. Balatchano, I have the honour to inform you that he has told me to-day that when he saw Count Andrassy, his Excellency's language was so identical with that which I had held, that he imagined it to have been the result of a communication from me, which was, however, not the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 525.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 813. Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, November 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAD an opportunity yesterday of having a few words of conversation with the Emperor.

His Majesty began by expressing the hope that things would now go satisfactorily in the East, as the Emperor of Russia had given the most explicit declaration of his intention to act fully up to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

I replied that it was no doubt satisfactory to receive such assurances, but that it would be still more so if we found the action of the Russian Government more in harmony with His Majesty's words, and that though I did not wish to question the sincerity of the Emperor's professions, the proceedings of his Ambassadors, Generals, and other officials all pointed to the conclusion that His Majesty's interpretation of the Treaty differed widely from our own, and it was safer to judge of the intentions of the Russian Government by its acts rather than to accept too confidently any assurances that might be given.

His Majesty having observed that Count Schouvaloff had declared that Prince Labanoff had been disavowed for telling Safvet Pasha that the evacuation of the Turkish territory depended upon the conclusion of a definitive Treaty, I said that I was aware of it, and that Her Majesty's Government had been informed of the disavowal soon after the pretension was first brought forward, but that it had not prevented the Ambassador from repeating it, nor from continuing to urge the Porte to agree to the definitive Treaty that he had proposed.

The Emperor rejoined that as, at least since Count Schouvaloff's mission, this objectionable condition must be looked upon as dropped, he could not quite understand why the Porte should decline to sign the Treaty about which Russia was so anxious.

His Majesty made an uncomplimentary comment upon the conduct of the Russian officers in the country they had occupied, and intimated his opinion that the Emperor of Russia was very badly served, and his wishes disregarded; and seemed, I thought, generally inclined to attribute to this cause, rather than to any deliberate policy of the Imperial Government, the obstacles that are being thrown in the way of the full execution of the Treaty.

His Majesty said very little about the Convention with Turkey concerning Novi-Bazar, except that he hoped the Porte would awaken to the necessity of quickly concluding such an arrangement, which, however, must now be simply confined to that district and not to the rest of Bosnia, where tranquillity had been established with a rapidity for which he was not at all prepared.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 526.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 814. Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, November 19, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT ANDRASSY spoke to me this evening with great earnestness of the necessity for securing the Russian evacuation at the proper time.

I said that he was aware of Her Majesty's Government being resolved that, as far as depended upon them, this should take place, and that if other Governments showed the same determination, there was little doubt of it being accomplished.

We then spoke of the proposal recorded in the Protocols of the Congress of Berlin, that an European occupation should replace that of the Russians if at the end of the nine months the state of the country rendered the presence of foreign troops necessary; and I asked him whether he considered that it would be advisable that there should be an exchange of ideas between the Governments upon that question.

He said that he still regretted that the arrangement had not been introduced into the body of the Treaty; but the proposal had certainly not been rejected; and, as time was passing away, with indications which might lead to some doubt whether it was certain that the Russians would evacuate at the date determined on, he considered that it would be decidedly advantageous for the Powers to exchange their views in respect to such a contingency if it should occur.

His Excellency would, I believe, be prepared to undertake that the Austro-Hungarian Government should furnish their contingent if Her Majesty's Government think proper to discuss such an arrangement with him; which perhaps might be made the means of obtaining from him an explicit engagement against permitting a prolonged Russian occupation.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 527.

Sir A. Paget to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 493.)

Rome, November 18, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the telegram from Her Majesty's Consul-General at Bucharest, stating that the Italian Envoy has received instructions to postpone presenting his credentials till further orders, Count Maffei, of whom I have made inquiries on the subject, has informed me that the case is not quite as represented.

The Italian Government, he said, being desirous of giving a proof of friendship to the Roumanian Government, had, upon being repeatedly assured by the Roumanian Agent in Rome that it was the intention of his Government to give immediate effect to the recommendations of the Congress in regard to Jewish disabilities, &c., furnished M. Fava with letters of credence as Minister at Bucharest, but at the same time he received instructions not to present these letters until he had received a declaration of such a positive character from the Government of Prince Charles as should be equivalent to an actual carrying out of their intentions of immediately abolishing all distinctions in the status between Jews and other religious sects. As this declaration had not yet been received, M. Fava, in compliance with his instructions, had refrained from presenting his letters.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 528.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 23.)

Sir,

Admiralty, November 20, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copy of a letter from Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby, dated the 10th instant, respecting winter quarters for the squadron.

My Lords propose, if the Marquis of Salisbury has no objection, to authorize the Commander-in-chief to move his squadron to Ismid for the winter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) THOS. WOLLEY.

Inclosure in No. 528.

Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Alexandra," at Artaki, November 13, 1878.

I BEG you will acquaint the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty that this anchorage proves to be less sheltered than I had hoped, as the south-westerly winds, instead of being diverted to west, as the line of hills would lead one to expect, blow at times direct and hard into the anchorage.

2. The postal communication is expensive, as I have to send a vessel twice a-week to Chanak for mails; and the district will not provide meat and vegetables for our

crews for many more weeks. Such supplies will, if the squadron remains here, have to be imported at increased cost.

3. The anchorage was taken as a temporary one, to correspond with the promised retreat of the Russian army from Roumelia; that retreat has been arrested, and the army is said to be preparing to winter in that province.

4. If, under these circumstances, their Lordships intend to keep this squadron in the Sea of Marmora during the winter, I recommend that it should, at an early date, be moved to Ismid, to which the railroad from Constantinople affords cheap and regular postal communications, as well as a good market for supplies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. PHIPPS HORNBY.

No. 529.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1023.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 22, 1878.*

FOLLOWING from Consul at Philippopolis dated to-day:—

"A telegram was received by the Philippopolis Committee from [Kostendil?] yesterday afternoon, announcing that another engagement has taken place near Melnic, between that town and Raslog, in which the Russo-Bulgarians were victorious; the Turks lost about 300 men and three guns, and the invaders 203 men. The Turks in Macedonia are reported to be exceedingly demoralized, fearing that if they inflict too severe reverses on the invaders they may bring themselves into collision with the Russian troops massed on the frontier. In consequence of which they are said to be acting entirely on the defensive."

No. 530.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(No. 1024.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, November 22, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER having requested me to make inquiries as to treatment of Turkish prisoners in Montenegro, I have received the following from Consul Green:—

Turkish soldiers who have recently escaped from Montenegro inform me as follows:—

The prisoners are employed by the Montenegrins from morning to night as porters, field labourers, wood-cutters, &c.; in transporting from the Austrian sea-coast to the Montenegrin capital cases of ammunition, and carrying invalids from Antivari to Cettinge. Having sent a deputation to the Prince to complain, His Highness ordered that they should be paid for their work; but the Commandant instead told them he would flog those who appealed again to head-quarters.

Two prisoners were shot by their guards for having fallen out of line, powerless to march through exhaustion, and one died. A captain was shot dead because he refused to return his winnings at cards: murderer in this instance was imprisoned.

All who can escape to Scutari, and now only about 200 prisoners remain.

In considering above complaint, the great distances and the difficulty of carrying heavy loads up roadless Montenegrin mountains must be taken into account.

No. 531.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, November 23, 1878.*

CAPTAIN [MURRAY?] now at Gallipoli, is employed under the Ambassador, who has asked for an officer to join Asiatic Boundary Commission: Captain Clarke undertakes this duty. These officers' pay and travelling expenses are paid by me out of funds at my disposal for Bulgarian Boundary Commission. Authority requested.

May Captain Ardagh and Lieutenant Chermside, on completion of duty here, proceed to Syria, for the duty referred to in my despatch No. 25?

No. 532.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 23, 1878.*

IN reply to your telegram to Sir H. Elliot, Count Andrassy desires me to inform your Lordship that he telegraphed yesterday to the Austrian Minister at Bucharest, advising Roumania to occupy the Dobrudscha, and he believes that Roumanian troops will cross the Danube to-day.

He has learnt from Bucharest that the Government of Roumania have agreed with Russian Minister that the existing arrangement with regard to passage of troops shall be extended to the Dobrudscha, which district, in virtue of Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, now becomes an integral part of Roumanian territory. His Excellency will make a statement in this sense to the Hungarian Delegation this evening.

[Sent to Vienna.)

No. 533.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23, 7 P.M.)

(No. 273.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 23, 1878.*

A TELEGRAM from Pesth reports the answer of Count Andrassy to questions in the Delegations, whether it was correct that Russia made the evacuation of Turkish territory dependent upon the conclusion of a new Treaty, and that Russian officers and soldiers were enrolled in the Bulgarian militia. He said that it was true that Prince Lobanoff had declared to the Porte that the evacuation would only take place three months after the conclusion of a new Treaty, but he had received assurances from the highest quarters that this was only the individual opinion of the Ambassador, and would not be insisted on, and according to the view of the Austro-Hungarian Government, the evacuation could in no respect be made to depend upon a new Treaty. Count Andrassy had no official information of Russian officers and men in the Bulgarian militia, and, though the Berlin Treaty reserved to the Sultan the nomination of the officers in the militia of Eastern Roumelia, it was silent respecting the Bulgarian militia, though it established very clearly the period for the evacuation of that province. He added that it was a matter of course that the Imperial Government would strive with its whole strength for the execution on all sides of the Berlin Treaty, and in this all the Powers were unanimous, Russia having lately declared that, while she will require from Turkey the full execution of the Treaty, she will on her own side punctually fulfil it.

No. 534.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23, at night.)

(No. 274.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, November 23, 1878.*

JUST before I left Pesth Count Andrassy of his own initiative repeated language reported in my despatch No. 814, but in more decided terms. He said that although, from the assurances given by Russia he hoped that the Treaty would be executed, it was impossible to deny that there was much to prevent entire confidence being felt, and as it would not do for the Powers to be taken by surprise, he thought that an understanding should be come to respecting the course to be followed in the event of the evacuation not taking place at the proper time.

No. 535.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 23, at night.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, November 23, 1878.*

I HAVE communicated to the French Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of your despatch No. 778 about Greece.

No. 536.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 790.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, November 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 927 of the 19th instant, I have to request your Excellency to inform M. Waddington that the question of the appointment of a British Political Agent in Montenegro is at present under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government; but you may add that when the appointment is made, Her Majesty's Government will probably not require their Representative to reside permanently within the Principality.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 537.

Lord Tenterden to Mr. Lingen.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 23, 1878.*

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to transmit to you herewith copies of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, forwarding a Report from Consul-General Fawcett, calling attention to the deplorable condition of the Mussulman refugees in the Rhodope districts, and inquiring whether there is any probability of the measures suggested by the Commission for their relief being carried out;* and in laying this despatch before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, I am to request that you will ask their Lordships whether, under the circumstances, they are disposed to contribute towards the relief of these unfortunate people.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 538.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 24.)

(No. 61.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 23, 1878.*

MEETING to-day not very important but generally satisfactory.

Please ask Dyke if necessary to get me a pair [?] and leave of absence.

It is reported to me that 100 volunteers have been enrolled at a large village two hours from here, named Tsalapitza, by Macedonian Bulgarian named Dimitri, for service in Macedonia.

Shall you lay any of my despatches ?

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* No. 382.

No. 539.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 23, 1878.*

WITH reference to my telegram of this day, I learn from Roumanian Minister that he has received a telegram, sent from Bucharest at 11·30 this morning, stating that prospect of an agreement with Russia respecting the Dobrudscha appears as distant as ever.

I understand that Count Andrassy stated to-night to the Hungarian Delegation that the reports he has received on the subject are contradictory, but that he still hopes that Russia will content herself with the proposals of Roumania.

Prince Charles' troops have not crossed the Danube, and the Roumanian Minister tells me that his Government has addressed an Ultimatum to Russia threatening the disbandment of the army, and an appeal to Europe if the terms offered are not agreed to by the 28th instant.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 540.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 24.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 24, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY stated to the Hungarian Delegation last night that he was not yet sufficiently informed whether the conclusion of a new Convention was an absolute condition imposed by the Russians before the cession of the Dobrudscha to Roumania, or whether the Roumanians merely apprehended that it would be so. In the former case the Roumanians would, of course, address themselves to the Signatory Powers. This Government considers that Roumania has the right to occupy the Dobrudscha the moment she has ceded Bessarabia, and that Article XII of the Berlin Treaty becomes at once applicable to the Dobrudscha as Roumanian territory.

Count Andrassy added that he had received such condradictory reports from various quarters that he could not give a precise explanation of the present state of the negotiations between Russia and Roumania.

He laid great stress on this, repeating the statement after his answer had already been approved.

No. 541.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 512. Secret.)
My Lord, *Athens, October 27, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's telegram of the 25th instant, and to inclose copy of a Memorandum which I delivered to an authorized source to be communicated to an excellent authority, embodying the observations of your Lordship as conveyed to me in the above-mentioned telegram.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 541.

Memorandum communicated by Mr. Corbett to Authorized Source on October 27, 1878.

(Secret.)

MR. CORBETT ayant communiqué secrètement à Lord Salisbury l'information au sujet des nouvelles reçues de source certaine de la Roumélie Orientale, Mr. Corbett a reçu l'ordre de Lord Salisbury de pénétrer ("impress upon") "l'autorité excellente" que cette nouvelle est d'autant plus une raison pour le maintien de bonnes relations entre la Porte et la Grèce. Si la Grèce se prête à aider à diminuer la puissance de

résistance de la Porte, les Bulgares profiteront et en recueilleront le bénéfice, et la race Hellénique en souffrira.

No. 542.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 534.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 13, 1878.*

M. CONDOURIOTIS, Greek Minister at Constantinople, has informed his Government that Sir Henry Layard had told him that he would do all in his power to bring about an amicable arrangement of the frontier question between Greece and Turkey.

An impression has been prevalent here that Sir Henry Layard was opposed to any cession of territory on the part of the Porte to Greece, and M. Delyanni, in reporting to me what he had heard from M. Condouriotis, expressed the satisfaction he felt on the receipt of this intelligence.

His Excellency shares the opinion of most people here that, if Great Britain takes up seriously the question of an increase of territory being accorded to Greece, no great obstacle to it on the part of the Porte would be found, but if Her Majesty's Government do not press the matter there is not much chance that the mediation, which it is understood the French Government has proposed, will be productive of any result satisfactory to this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 543.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 536. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, November 16, 1878.*

THE French Minister at Athens, in consequence of a private communication from M. Waddington, has spoken to M. Delyanni as to the desirability of reducing the number of the Greek military force under arms, and to be incorporated, if the Bill mentioned in my preceding number of this day's date is adopted by the Chamber, as he considered that the large force now maintained by this country was a cause of disquiet to Turkey.

M. Delyanni promised to speak to M. Coumoundouros and the King on the subject, and said, if the present favourable disposition of the Porte towards their country was maintained, there would be no objection to reduce the army, which would be a sensible relief to the finances.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 544.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 537.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 16, 1878.*

REFERRING to Sir Henry Elliott's despatch No. 741, Confidential, of the 10th ultimo, copy of which was inclosed to me in your Lordship's No. 213 of the 7th instant, I have the honour to state that the Austrian Minister at Athens has undoubtedly used language here tending to invite Greece to assume a menacing attitude towards Turkey, especially during the period when the Austrian troops found so much opposition to their occupying Bosnia and Herzegovina.

He appeared to think that, if Greece could be induced to assume a more hostile attitude towards the Porte, such a state of things would act as a diversion of the Ottoman forces, as the Turkish Government was suspected of secretly encouraging the opposition shown by many in those provinces to the establishment of Austrian rule. Count Dubsky, however, does not appear to have ever pretended that he was thus

expressing himself under instructions from his Government, but gave it to be understood that the views he expressed were personal to himself.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 545.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 538.) [B.B.]
My Lord, *Athens, November 16, 1878.*

I HAVE communicated to the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs the observations contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 201 of the 7th ultimo, to the effect that Her Majesty's Government were unable to concur in the construction which the Greek Government appear to place on Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

In spite of what I said, his Excellency appears to maintain the views on the matter which he had expressed in his note of the 7th September last, asking for the mediation of the Great Powers.

The construction which the Greek Government has put upon Article XXIV of the Treaty of Berlin is the one generally accepted here, and is too favourable to the aspirations of the country to be easily abandoned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 546.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 923.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul at Helsenfors reporting that a contract had been concluded by the Russian Government with Messrs. Osberg and Bade, of that town, for the immediate construction of 600 ammunition waggons and 4,200 wheels.

The value of the contract amounts to 400,000 roubles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 546.

Consul Campbell to Lord A. Loftus.

My Lord, *Helsenfors, November 5, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that a contract has been concluded between the Russian Government and Messrs. Osberg and Bade, of this city, for the immediate construction of 600 ammunition carriages and 4,200 wheels.

The value of the contract amounts to 400,000 roubles.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. CAMPBELL.

No. 547.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 928.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1878.*

I AM informed that the French Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, Comte Viel Castel, has received an official reply from M. de Giers to the French Circular respecting the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier, in which his Excellency announces the complete adhesion of the Imperial Government to the French proposal,

and that instructions have been sent to the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople to act in conformity therewith.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 548.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 933.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 12, 1878.*

I WAS informed to-day by a person on whom I can rely, and who apparently had received the information from an official source, that orders had been sent to the Russian military Commanders in Roumelia and south of the Balkans, to hold their present positions until the conclusion of the separate definitive Treaty with Turkey, and that the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople had been instructed to notify this decision of the Imperial Government to the Porte.

The following is the amount of the Russian forces between the Danube and Constantinople, which I have received from a semi-official source. This army of occupation consists of 183 battalions of infantry, calculated at about 800 effective men per battalion; 60 squadrons of regular cavalry, estimated at about 130 men per squadron; 110 sotnias of Cossacks, estimated at 140 men per sotnia; 4 battalions of pontonniers, each battalion supplied with the material for a bridge of 100 lagenes in length; 662 guns, as also in addition some naval and engineer detachments; the foregoing, not including the artillery and the pontonniers, represents an effective force of 146,400 infantry and 23,200 cavalry, making a total of 169,600 men.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 549.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 937.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1878.*

IT has been reported to me, and from a source which is worthy of credence, that large numbers of Russian non-commissioned officers and soldiers are being enrolled in the Bulgarian and Roumelian militia.

It is a somewhat remarkable coincidence, which apparently confirms the report referred to, that a Circular, of which I inclose the notification from the official paper, has lately been issued by the Ministry of the Interior to the provincial authorities by order of the Emperor, recalling the prohibition, published during the late war, for soldiers of the reserve to leave the country. By this Circular they are now permitted to pass the frontiers of Russia on conforming to the general rules in regard to passports.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 549.

Extract from the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" of $\frac{\text{October 30}}{\text{November 11}}$, 1878.

UNE circulaire du Ministre de l'Intérieur aux Gouverneurs de province leur fait savoir, en date du 22 Octobre, que, par ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, la défense faite pendant la durée de la dernière guerre aux soldats de la réserve de se rendre à l'étranger vient d'être levée, et que dorénavant les soldats de la réserve pourront sortir des limites de la Russie, en se conformant aux règlements généraux en vigueur pour les passeports.

No. 550.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 938.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1878.*

THE Russian newspapers report that 52,000 Turkish prisoners of war, including 4,000 officers, have been forwarded from Sevastopol to Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

No. 551.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 943.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 19, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the following articles from the Russian press, reproduced in the "Agence Russe."

1. The "Golos" considers that Austria is to blame for the present disquieting rumours, and that the conduct of the Austrian Government for some time past has been ambiguous; Russia ought not to be deceived by it, but ought to adopt a resolute policy.

2. The "Golos" considers that Russia having abandoned the lines of Constantinople and allowed the Turks to make them inaccessible is the best proof that she does not desire war and is resolved to carry out the Treaty of Berlin, however defective it may be.

3. The "Novoe Vremia" states that peace will only be assured when the Turks shall have been driven out of the Balkan Peninsula. England is the only obstacle to this being carried out, and Russia should declare peremptorily that she will no longer put up with the troubles in the East, of which England is the promoter. The superior forces of Russia authorize her to hold this language. No one has knowledge of the immense resources which the English Ministers boast of.

4. The "Gazette de la Bourse" states that, should there be any truth in the rumours that Count Schouvaloff is to propose a new Congress, the danger of fresh complications will recommence, and Russia will be in a much worse position than before. Constantinople is fortified, the English fleet is still in the Sea of Marmora, and Bosnia in the possession of Austria. The only result of the late war has been the partition of Turkey for the benefit of England and Austria, and if Russia had acquired territory through it in the Balkan Peninsula her position would be even worse than it is now.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 551.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

L'AUTRICHE ET LA TURQUIE.—On lit dans le "Golos":—

"L'ambiguïté de la politique Autrichienne est la cause des troubles actuels. Le Cabinet de Vienne a choisi pour entamer des négociations avec la Porte précisément le moment où celle-ci, sous le prétexte de l'insurrection des Bulgares de Macédoine, concentre de ce côté des forces considérables. Il y a là une étrange coïncidence qui nous impose de suivre avec vigilance les agissements d'une politique qui prend des semblants suspects. L'Autriche a, d'ailleurs, toujours excellé dans les moyens de sortir d'embarras par les procédés dont elle nous fait prévoir le renouvellement encore aujourd'hui. Défions-nous, quand bien même le Comte Andrassy affecterait de vouloir retourner un programme de l'alliance des trois Empereurs. La combinaison a perdu beaucoup de son opportunité, et puis, qui garantirait que ce ne soit ce que l'on nomme vulgairement un trompe-l'œil? Dans les années qui viennent de s'écouler le Cabinet Autrichien ne s'est pas fait faute de prodiguer à l'égard de la Russie de chaleureuses protestations d'amitié, et pourtant les faits y ont donné déjà plus d'un formel démenti.

Nous avons été assez longtemps sous l'influence de ces protestations mensongères puisque ce n'est que le Congrès de Berlin qui nous a ouvert les yeux. Nous n'allons certes pas nous laisser reprendre aux mielleuses façons. Il n'a été que trop perdu de temps, et il est fâcheux que nous n'ayions point en son temps saisi la portée du judicieux aphorisme du Prince de Bismarck, qui disait, '*beati possidentis.*' La Russie a renoncé à une partie de ses justes demandes; en adhérant au partage de la Bulgarie, à l'occupation de la Bosnie, et de l'Herzégovine, à la modification du plan primitif de délimitation de la Serbie et du Monténégro; tandis que toutes ces concessions ont eu pour résultat d'enhardir nos adversaires et de ramener l'espérance au cœur des hommes d'Etat de la Porte. Le retour à la politique qui a précédé la conclusion du Traité de Berlin est chose impossible, et on doit se douter à Vienne que nous ne sommes plus les dupes de la politique du Comte Andrassy. A Constantinople on doit également pressentir le danger d'une aventure comme celle que donna lieu à la note que Safvet Pacha a adressé au Prince Labanoff-Rostovsky. Enfin, les Puissances doivent convenir que dans de semblables conditions le Traité de Berlin risque fort de n'être pas observé et exécuté. C'est pourquoi la Russie doit se tenir à une politique résolue qui mette fin aux tergiversations que l'on soulève de différents côtés."

Inclosure 2 in No. 551.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

La Russie et la Paix.—La mauvaise foi qui se donne cours pour représenter la Russie comme le seul obstacle à la réalisation de la paix à laquelle l'Europe toute entière aspire si ardemment, inspire au "Golos" un long article rempli d'arguments irréfutables. Nous en détachons la fin:—

"Si la franchise avec laquelle nos journaux exposent les mobiles qui guident les Russes ne suffit pas à convaincre les sceptiques, qu'ils envisagent les faits! Le plus concluant n'est-il pas celui de l'abandon que nous faisons de la ligne de Constantinople que les Turcs travaillent chaque jour à fortifier au point de rendre le Bosphore inaccessible? La Russie agirait-elle comme elle le fait, si elle méditait les noirs projets qu'on lui prête? L'Europe reçoit la démonstration la plus évidente que notre Gouvernement est fermement résolu à observer fidèlement le Traité de Berlin. Car enfin, pourquoi notre Gouvernement eut-il signé cette paix sous les murs de Constantinople, qu'il n'a pas fait occuper par l'armée Russe afin de ne pas provoquer de conflagration, menaçante pour la paix générale? Est-ce que l'on aurait agi ainsi si l'on avait l'intention de fouler aux pieds ensuite les considérations éminemment humanitaires qui guident la politique de la Russie? On n'a pas besoin de réfuter semblables incohérences. La Russie n'est certes pas fautive que le Traité de Berlin trouve dans sa mise à exécution, certaines difficultés qu'elle avait prévues néanmoins, et que d'autres se sont refusés à admettre. Tel qu'il est cependant, ce Traité, avec ses imperfections, marque le point de départ d'une ère de régénération complète des Chrétiens d'Orient. Cette pensée, l'espoir qu'elle comporte dans l'avenir, suffit à notre satisfaction. La politique de la Russie n'aura jamais besoin d'écarter des voies de la sagesse, de la modération, pour réaliser les conquêtes morales qu'elle ambitionne."

D'autre part le "Nouveaux Temps" consacre au même sujet les lignes suivantes et tient, suivant son habitude, un langage plus catégorique et explicite. En donnant ici l'opinion de la presse Russe nous répétons que notre devoir est de reproduire les idées sans en assumer la responsabilité:—

"La Russie," dit-il, "réjouira d'une paix assurée que lorsque la péninsule des Balkans aura été complétement débarrassée de la domination Ottomane. Or, c'est un résultat qu'il est de toute impossibilité d'atteindre par les voies diplomatiques. Mais ce n'est pas aux Gouvernements qu'il faut s'en prendre des obstacles que la Russie rencontre dans l'exécution de son œuvre, c'est à l'Angleterre afin de neutraliser ses agissements. Il est bien utile d'aller chercher auprès de quelques-unes des autres Puissances un point d'appui; d'autant plus que l'Europe doit commencer à être lasse du jeu qui se poursuit depuis si longtemps au grand détriment de la tranquillité générale. Il y a, en conséquence, lieu de déclarer péremptoirement à l'Angleterre que l'on est décidé à ne point supporter plus longtemps de sa part les troubles qu'elle entretient en Orient. La Russie est en état de faire entendre un langage énergique, car elle s'appuie sur des forces autrement importantes que celles dont peut disposer son adversaire. Les Ministres Anglais nous parlent continuellement de ressources immenses qu'ils seraient en état de mettre en jeu le cas échéant; toutefois, ces

ressources nul ne les a aperçues jusqu'à présent. Quant à nous, nous disposons d'un levier puissant qui est entre nos mains; faisons-en donc usage, et que cela soit fini une fois pour toutes."

La "Gazette de la Bourse," qui se fait recommander par son ton modéré et impartial, nous fournit un article sur la même question, qu'il est bon de comparer avec les précédents:—

"Après les Ministres Anglais, c'est le Président des Délégations de l'Empire Austro-Hongrois qui est venu déclarer que l'on poursuivait l'exécution complète du Traité de Berlin; nul doute que des deux partis on ait entendu surtout faire allusion à l'évacuation en temps opportun de la péninsule des Balkans par les troupes Russes. Il nous revient, à ce propos, par les journaux étrangers, que le Comte Schouvaloff, en quittant Livadia, se rendrait à Pesth, afin de soumettre à l'Empereur d'Autriche un projet de convocation d'un nouveau Congrès destiné à mettre le Traité de Berlin en accord avec certaines clauses du Traité de San Stéfano, dont l'indispensable a été suffisamment démontré par une série d'événements que les diplomates du Congrès n'ont point prévus. Nous ne savons ce qu'il y a de fondé dans ces rumeurs, dont la confirmation voudrait dire qu'il peut survenir dans la situation politique telle modification qui replace la question d'Orient au point où elle en était avant le Congrès de Berlin, peut-être même avant la Conférence de Constantinople. Il faudrait recourir à une entente Européenne, donc nouveaux dangers de complications; c'est-à-dire, que nous voilà exposés à repasser par toutes les péripéties qui ont mis à de si fortes épreuves la tranquillité générale en 1876 et au commencement de 1877. Il y avait toutefois cette différence pour nous que, sans parler des sacrifices pécuniaires immenses que nous a coûtés la guerre, la position de notre armée s'est modifiée à notre désavantage. La flotte Anglaise n'ayant pas quitté la Mer de Marmara, peut à tout moment nous couper les communications par mer avec la Bulgarie d'une part; de l'autre nous nous trouvons en présence des forces Turques rétablies, et considérablement augmentées, de Constantinople fortifié, de la Bosnie et de l'Herzégovine occupées par les Autrichiens, de la Roumanie devenue indépendante, et dont les bonnes dispositions à notre égard seraient assez douteuses. Assurément qu'il est permis d'attendre beaucoup de l'héroïsme de nos soldats, mais les intérêts à poursuivre dans la péninsule des Balkans valent-ils que nous fassions supporter de nouveaux sacrifices à notre armée? Pour notre part, nous n'essaierons pas de dissimuler notre doute profond à cet égard. D'aucuns disent que la guerre n'a abouti en fin de compte qu'à un partage de la Turquie entre l'Angleterre et l'Autriche, et que la Russie a tiré les marrons du feu pour autrui. Malheureusement il n'y a là qu'une certaine dose de vérité, mais, selon nous, la dernière guerre ne pouvait aboutir à d'autres conséquences que celles que l'on déplore aujourd'hui. Nous irons plus loin et sommes prêts à soutenir que les difficultés eussent été incomparablement plus grandes que celles que la Russie traverse en ce moment si la guerre lui avait procuré des acquisitions territoriales dans la péninsule des Balkans. A peine tracions-nous les lignes qui précèdent, que le télégraphe nous apporte la nouvelle que notre Souverain, à l'occasion de la Circulaire de M. Waddington par rapport à la Grèce, a daigné manifester la ferme résolution d'exécuter le programme de Berlin dans son entier. Ces paroles de l'Empereur serviront à raffermir la paix, elles rempliront de joie le cœur des vrais patriotes, pour lesquels le bien du pays est au-dessus de tout; pour ce qui est des autres nous espérons qu'ils abandonneront enfin leurs idées extravagantes."

No. 552.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 945.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an article from yesterday's "Agence Russe," reproducing an article published in the "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" (which emanates evidently from the Imperial Ministry for Foreign Affairs), "giving," as states the "Agence Russe," "an authentic and detailed account of the circumstances which caused the Imperial troops to reoccupy that portion of the Turkish territory which they had abandoned in the neighbourhood of Demotica and of Rhodope."

Your Lordship will see from the statement that the whole blame for the disorders which have occurred in that district is thrown on the Turkish Government, who, it is

stated, failed to provide the forces necessary for the maintenance of order on the withdrawal of the Russian troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 552.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

St. Pétersbourg, Mardi soir, le 17 Novembre, 1878.

L'EUROPE n'avait pas eu jusqu'ici l'explication authentique et détaillée des circonstances qui avaient amené nos troupes à réoccuper une partie des positions qu'elles avaient abandonnées aux environs de Dimotika et des Monts Rhodope. Cette explication est donnée aujourd'hui par le "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" dans les termes et avec les détails inédits très-intéressants, que nous reproduisons sous notre rubrique la "Revue de la Presse Russe;" ils mettront, une fois pour toutes, nous l'espérons, fin aux insinuations intéressées de certaines organes de la presse étrangère :—

REVUE DE LA PRESSE RUSSE.

LES MOUVEMENTS DE L'ARMÉE RUSSE.—Voici l'article du "Journal de St. Pétersbourg" que nous signalons plus haut, et que nous reproduisons en lui laissant, bien entendu, toute la responsabilité :—

"Depuis l'époque où nos troupes ont évacué les environs de Constantinople, de Gallipoli, et de Dédéagatch, la presse étrangère n'a pas manqué de chercher à rejeter sur notre armée la responsabilité des désordres qui se sont produits dans les localités abandonnées par nos soldats, et d'accuser les Bulgares d'en avoir été les principaux fauteurs. Et pourtant, comme on pourra s'en convaincre par les faits que nous constatons ci-après, c'est sur le Gouvernement Ottoman que retombe l'entière responsabilité des méfaits qui ont été commis, car il ne veut prendre aucune mesure pour apaiser une population composé d'éléments divers qui se portent une haine mutuelle—haine que les Musulmans assouvissent dès que nos troupes se sont éloignées des contrées qu'elles occupaient. Afin d'éviter les désordres qui pouvaient éclater dans les environs de Constantinople, de Gallipoli, et de Dédéagatch après le départ de nos troupes, on s'était entendu avec le Gouvernement Ottoman pour que les localités évacuées fussent immédiatement occupées par les Turcs.

"A cet effet ils devaient envoyer, quelques jours avant le départ de nos régiments, leurs employés civils dans les endroits dont l'évacuation était proche, et y faire entrer leurs troupes immédiatement après la sortie des nôtres. Ces conditions ont été observées en partie pour ce qui concerne les localités situées dans la direction de Constantinople et de Gallipoli, mais aucune mesure de ce genre n'a été prise par les Turcs quant aux environs de Dimotika et des Monts Rhodope. Aussi, dès que nos troupes eurent quitté ces contrées, celles-ci devinrent le théâtre des désordres qui se transformèrent bientôt en une anarchie complète. A peine avions-nous évacué (le 27 Septembre) le village du Grand Derbent, dans les Monts Rhodope, que le lendemain même, une bande de Bachi-Bozouks, commandée par Pantchik-Oglou Ali-Moullah, prit possession de cet endroit et, ralliée par les habitants Musulmans des villages voisins, principalement ceux du village de Démir-Eren, se mit à piller les habitations des Chrétiens et à faire main basse sur leurs armes, leur argent, leurs grains, leur bétail, &c. Trois Bulgares furent tués à cette occasion. Les Chrétiens étant venus se plaindre le lendemain au Commandant du corps d'armée de Dimotika, celui-ci leur donna une escorte de Cosaques, sous la protection desquels ils retournèrent au Grand Derbent, pour tâcher de sauver le reste de leurs biens et d'emmener leurs parents restés au village. Bulgares et Cosaques furent reçus à l'entrée de Derbent par les habitants Musulmans armés, qui les sommèrent, avec force menaces, de retourner sur leurs pas. Il y eut encore des Bulgares tués et blessés à cette occasion. D'autre part, le Commandant du corps de Dimotika voulant protéger les Chrétiens du village de Démir Eren, y envoya, le 13/25 Octobre, deux compagnies du 20e Régiment d'infanterie. Ces troupes y furent reçues à coups de fusil, et l'engagement qui s'ensuivit se termina par la retraite des Bachi-Bozouks, qui essuyèrent une perte considérable. Le 14/26 Octobre, le Commandant de l'arrondissement de Dimotika s'étant rendu avec quelques Cosaques au village de Kayndjik, où les Musulmans commettaient des meurtres et se livraient au pillage, il y fut reçu à coups de fusil. Les Cosaques ripostèrent en tuant deux Bachi-Bozouks. Le lendemain les Bachi-Bozouks ouvrirent le feu sur une patrouille Russe

près du village de Mandra. Le Gouvernement Ottoman, s'étant décidé enfin à tenter de rétablir la tranquillité dans le pays, donna des ordres à cet effet à Mazhar Pacha, en lui enjoignant surtout d'arrêter l'émigration des habitants Chrétiens; mais, Mazhar Pacha, installé à Ferré, à proximité immédiate du théâtre des désordres, non-seulement ne prit aucune mesure en vue de l'apaisement de la population, mais s'efforça, au contraire, paraît-il, d'inciter le fanatisme des Mussulmans en accueillant les plaintes formulées par ceux-ci contre les Chrétiens, et cela dans le but de présenter toute l'affaire sous un jour défavorable à ces derniers. Pareille conduite eut pour effet immédiat d'augmenter l'émigration des Chrétiens.

"C'est alors que, voyant l'inactivité du Gouvernement Ottoman, on fut obligé de prendre des mesures énergiques pour arrêter la propagation des désordres, et pour punir les brigands qui, profitant de la modération de nos troupes, se livraient avec une audace sans pareille au meurtre et au pillage. Des colonnes volantes furent formées avec mission d'occuper les villages de Démir Eren et du Grand Derbent. Le 19 Octobre le détachement du Lieutenant-Colonel Bibikoff, du régiment des Cosaques de Vladikavkaz, prit d'assaut le village de Mensemler, où s'étaient réfugiés 200 Bachi-Bozouks, qui furent mis en fuite. Leur repaire fut livré aux flammes. Le lendemain, le même détachement s'empara des villages de Huterli et de Kajékioï, et le 21 Octobre, les brigands qui s'étaient retranchés au sommet du Nedjioï furent dispersés par les Cosaques. Le but que l'on se proposait ayant été atteint, le détachement du Lieutenant-Colonel Bibikoff fut rappelé, et il se trouve actuellement sur la ligne de Démir Eren et du Grand Derbent, laquelle servira jusqu'à nouvel ordre de ligne de démarcation à nos troupes avancées. Mazhar Pacha a été prévenu que toutes les bandes armées qui chercheront à franchir cette ligne seront repoussées les armes à la main, et que quiconque troublera l'ordre dans le rayon occupé par nos troupes sera rigoureusement poursuivi."

No. 553.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 949.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship an article from the "Agence Russe" of the 14th instant (evidently of official origin), publishing a telegram from London, referring to the note which I had received from M. de Giers, and which contained the formal assurances of the desire of the Emperor Alexander for a scrupulous execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

The "Agence Russe," apparently on official authority, confirms the information given by the "Globe," observing that the Imperial Government were induced, on account of exaggerated and malevolent insinuations circulated by the foreign press, to make known to the foreign Cabinets that their most formal intentions were the pacification of the East by the scrupulous execution of the Treaty of Berlin, from which no Russian functionary could deviate.

I further annex a leading article from the "Agence Russe," bearing the stamp of an official character, explaining, as the motives which had given rise to this communication, the necessity of connecting exaggerated and false reports propagated by the foreign as well as the Russian press.

It refers to the primary object of the late war, and states that the Emperor could never deviate, whatever were the difficulties within or without, from the double solemn engagement, viz., that the Russian troops of occupation should not retire from the Balkan Peninsula until the fate of the Christian populations was entirely guaranteed; and secondly, that the reforms such as had been agreed upon by Europe at the Congress of Berlin should be scrupulously carried out.

I likewise inclose the article from the "Golos," to which allusion is made in the preceding one.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 553.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

St. Pétersbourg, Jeudi soir, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Novembre, 1878.

LES journaux de ce matin, y compris le "Journal de St. Pétersbourg," ont reproduit d'après "l'Agence Internationale" le télégramme suivant daté de Londres:—

"Le 'Globe' est autorisé à déclarer que Lord Loftus a reçu le 9 Novembre une note de M. de Giers, datée de Livadia et donnant l'assurance que le désir de Sa Majesté l'Empereur Alexandre est de témoigner tous les égards qu'il convient aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin et d'amener la pacification tant désirée par une exécution scrupuleuse du Traité. Aucun fonctionnaire Impérial, ajoute la note, ne faillira à son devoir sous ce rapport."

Nous sommes à même de confirmer la nouvelle du "Globe" de Londres. En présence des interprétations malveillantes et des bruits mensongers répandus par la presse étrangère, le Gouvernement Impérial à, en effet, tenu à faire savoir à tous les Cabinets intéressés que ses intentions les plus formelles sont la pacification en Orient par l'exécution scrupuleuse du Traité de Berlin, dont aucun fonctionnaire Russe ne saurait se départir.

Inclosure 2 in No. 553.

Extract from the "Agence Russe."

St. Pétersbourg, Samedi soir, le $\frac{7}{19}$ Novembre, 1878.

LA note adressée de Livadia par son Excellence M. de Giers à Lord Loftus, et communiquée aux autres Cabinets intéressés, dont nous avons confirmé l'existence dans notre dernier numéro, commence à produire ses effets salutaires. On en trouvera la preuve entr'autres dans un article du "Golos" de ce matin, sur la crise actuelle, que nous résumons plus loin sous notre rubrique: "Revue de la Presse Russe."

Pour tous ceux qui sont au courant de la politique Impériale et qui savent combien cette politique, au milieu même des plus graves difficultés, reste invariable dans ces principes de justice, de modération, et de fermeté, cette note était inutile. Elle était indispensable par contre pour tous ceux qui, moins bien intentionnés ou moins initiés, devaient forcément se laisser influencer et par les difficultés inhérentes aux affaires mêmes qu'il s'agit de traiter, aux décisions qu'il s'agit d'exécuter, aux intérêts hostiles qu'il s'agit d'accorder, et par les bruits exagérés ou faux, voire même par les calomnies propagés avec persistance par une certaine partie de la presse étrangère, aussi bien, pourquoi ne le dirions-nous pas, que par les exagérations de quelques-uns des organes de notre propre presse Russe.

En disant que la ferme intention de Sa Majesté l'Empereur est la pacification de l'Orient par l'exécution scrupuleuse du Traité de Berlin, la note à Lord Loftus n'a fait que confirmer ce que tout esprit réfléchi et impartial devait savoir d'avance être le désir sincère et la volonté expresse de celui qui, après avoir clairement et solennellement tracé le but de la dernière guerre, et les conditions de l'occupation Russe, a loyalement ratifié le Traité de Berlin. Il n'était pas nécessaire d'être très au courant des choses ou de posséder une intelligence hors ligne pour savoir qu'un Souverain de la loyauté de l'Empereur Alexandre ne se départirait pas, quelles que fussent les entraves du dehors ou du dedans, de ce double et solennel engagement; d'une part, les troupes Russes ne devant pas quitter la péninsule des Balkans avant que le sort des Chrétiens ne fût intièrement garanti par des institutions pratiques et effectives; d'autre part, la mise à exécution de ces réformes telles, et scrupuleusement telles, que l'Europe les avait définitivement arrêtées au Congrès de Berlin.

Ce Congrès n'a jamais ou ni de près, ni de loin, ni par ses déclarations officielles, ni par ses commentaires officieux, pour objet de dénaturer, par rapport aux Chrétiens de la péninsule, le but essentiel de la guerre, tel que l'Empereur Alexandre l'avait défini. Son unique objet a été d'accorder les moyens pratiques d'atteindre ce but avec les intérêts généraux de l'Europe. L'Empereur s'est prêté à cet accord avec un esprit de conciliation qui a démontré jusqu'à l'évidence que la paix n'avait pas en Europe de meilleur défenseur que lui. Il n'y a mis qu'une seule condition, mais expresse, c'est que les sacrifices importants qu'il faisait à cet accord, tout en en signalant les dangers au point de vue de l'avenir, ne diminuassent pas trop les

garanties pratiques et formelles en faveur des Chrétiens, pour lesquelles le sang Russe avait été répandu à torrents. Cette condition a fait notamment l'objet des stipulations qui furent successivement proposées et arrêtées par l'Europe pour sauvegarder la Roumélie Orientale, quoique détachée de la Bulgarie, contre la rapacité et la tyrannie de l'administration Ottomane et éviter toute conflagration possible entre les deux races.

C'est ainsi que la Roumélie fut dotée d'une milice nationale, qu'elle sut s'administrer elle-même sous des autorités élues par elle, à l'exception du Gouverneur nommé par la Porte; s'est ainsi enfin qu'une ligne d'étapes fut soigneusement tracée, par laquelle seulement la Porte pouvait faire passer ses troupes.

Toutes ces mesures, toutes ces précautions furent dictées—nous le répétons—par une seule et même pensée, celle de garantir le plus possible les Chrétiens de la Roumélie contre les cruautés et les vexations des Turcs et d'assurer, autant que faire se peut, la tranquillité dans ces malheureuses contrées, bienfaits pour lesquels la guerre avait été entreprise, que le sang Russe avait déjà assurés, et sans l'exécution absolue et rigoureuse desquels les troupes Russes ne pouvaient ni dignement, ni logiquement, d'après le pacte même de Berlin, rentrer dans leurs foyers.

C'est en effet à ces concessions de la Russie, d'une part, par rapport à la Grande Bulgarie, et à ces stipulations formelles de l'Europe, d'autre part, en faveur de la Roumélie Orientale, que se résume au fond ce pacte de Berlin.

Or, ne va-t-il pas de soi, que pour que la Russie exécute les engagements qu'elle a contractés, il faut que la Turquie exécute les siens, ou que les Puissances fassent exécuter ceux qu'elles ont pris la concernant. C'est là une question de justice d'une telle simplicité et si évidente qu'on ne comprend réellement pas qu'elle puisse donner encore matière à des divergences, et que pour les expliquer il faut ne pas perdre de vue la méfiance hostile des uns, qui désireraient ne rien faire pour des populations Chrétiennes, parce qu'elles sont Slaves, et l'intransigeance des autres qui, par la même raison, voudraient tout leur sacrifier.

Aussi, lorsqu'au milieu de ce chaos d'interprétations contradictoires, mais également exagérées, la clarté se fait à la suite d'une manifestation de la pensée Impériale, deux grandes vérités se détachent et se font jour dans l'esprit de tous ceux que n'aveuglent pas la passion et le parti-pris. C'est qu'après les concessions faites à Berlin par l'Empereur Alexandre, il n'est pas un homme en Europe qui puisse se dire plus ami de la paix que lui, de même qu'après ses belles déclarations avant la guerre sur le prix qu'il faisait de chaque goutte de sang Russe et après sa conduite pleine d'abnégation patriotique sur le terrain de la guerre, il n'est pas un homme en Russie qui ait le droit de se croire plus Russe que lui.

Il est à espérer qu'apres la dernière note de Livadia ces deux traits accentués et décisifs du caractère de Sa Majesté—le désir sincère de la paix et le soin jaloux des intérêts réellement Russes—seront dorénavant reconnus partout comme fixant la base et les principes immuables de sa politique à la fois modérée et ferme. Sous ce rapport cette note aura eu les plus heureuses conséquences, car elle aura convaincu les réfractaires, tranquillisé les timorés, et calmé les exaltés.

Elle fera donc beaucoup de bien, nous en sommes convaincu. Nous sommes de ceux en effet qui pensent que plus, dans les moments difficiles, la pensée Impériale se manifeste, mieux c'est, car elle est de celles qui ne peuvent que gagner à être bien connues.

Inclosure 3 in No. 553.

Extract from the "Golos."

LA CRISE ACTUELLE.—Dans son numéro de ce matin le "Golos" contient un second article dont nous croyons devoir reproduire également les principaux passages:—

"De tous les points du monde civilisé, dit-il," "partent des voix demandant la fin de l'état de choses actuel créé par la question d'Orient. Ces cris sont poussés par les intérêts moraux et matériels de l'Europe entière qui, en dehors de toute sympathie ou antipathie pour le joug Turc, se trouvent mis en péril, et par la continuation du carnage qui dure depuis plus de trois ans dans la péninsule des Balkans et par l'attente fiévreuse de chaque jour d'une guerre générale. Ces intérêts du monde civilisé qui sont ceux de la vie même de centaines de millions d'êtres humains qui meurent de faim par la suspension générale des affaires et du travail, parlent de jour en jour plus haut

tout en n'ayant rien de commun avec les intrigues politiques qui ont en vue soit le maintien de l'Empire Ottoman en Europe, soit son renversement ou son partage. Les organes de la presse étrangère de toutes nuances s'expriment de la même manière, même ceux qui, soit par amour effréné pour la Turquie, soit par haine implacable contre la Russie, se sont le plus ouvertement prononcés contre l'indépendance complète des Chrétiens."

(Ici le "Golos" reproduit un passage d'un des derniers articles du "Times," où l'organe de la Cité se demandait si l'Angleterre devrait toujours sacrifier ses intérêts particuliers les plus chers aux difficultés extérieures, et si, en présence de sa situation intérieure si compliquée et de ses banqueroutes, l'Angleterre devrait toujours avoir les yeux fixés sur l'étranger, si, enfin, l'Angleterre n'était pas pour les Anglais bien autrement chère et intéressante, que l'Ile de Chypre ou l'Asie Mineure.)

"A toutes ces questions," ajoute le "Golos," "en ce qui concerne du moins la Grande-Bretagne, nous pourrions répondre que cet état de choses durera, hélas! aussi longtemps que ne prendra pas fin l'insupportable politique actuelle du Cabinet de Londres, qui a le plus contribué à compliquer dans la péninsule des Balkans les difficultés sans fin du moment. Mais ses questions ne sont pas adressées par les seuls organes de la presse Anglaise. La 'Presse,' de Vienne disait l'autre jour :—

"'Il n'y a certes pas un seul homme d'Etat influent aujourd'hui en Europe qui voie une issue quelconque à l'embroglio Oriental actuel et qui croie à une exécution possible du Traité de Berlin.'

"Et ces mêmes questions existent également pour la Russie, bien que la stagnation générale des affaires soit chez nous, par suite de l'absence de l'élément révolutionnaire dans notre classe ouvrière, d'une moindre importance que dans l'Europe Occidentale, et que les difficultés Orientales se lient chez nous à des sentiments nationaux qui n'existent pas chez les autres nations.

"On peut certainement attendre de bien plus grands sacrifices de notre peuple pour la cause des Chrétiens que des autres peuples. On peut même dire qu'il est seul capable en faveur de cette cause d'une abnégation absolue. Il est bon néanmoins de songer à la gravité des sacrifices qui pèsent sur lui, par suite de l'interminable trouble des affaires d'Orient, parvenu aujourd'hui à son apogée. Ces sacrifices ne sont pas pris en considération par nos Chauvinistes, pour lesquels la tournure que prennent les choses dans la péninsule des Balkans peut ne paraître qu'un spectacle historique plein d'intérêt."

Ici le "Golos" résume le dire de ces derniers, selon lesquels la récente guerre serait revenue relativement à bon marché tandis que d'autres vont jusqu'à dire que pour arriver "à une expulsion immédiate et complète des Turcs de l'Europe" aucun sacrifice ne serait assez grand, mais qu'il faudrait pour cela recourir à de grandes réformes dans le système des impôts.

Le "Golos" n'est pas contre ces réponses; il rappelle qu'il les a au contraire, de tout temps, réclamées le premier; mais il démontre qu'avant tout ces réformes doivent être précédées d'une ferme décision dans un sens ou dans l'autre:—

"Nos ressources financières, aussi bien que militaires," dit-il, "suffisent à toute espèce de lutte et à toute espèce de politique dans la question d'Orient, en Europe et en Asie, elles peuvent tout supporter, hormi l'indécision, l'hésitation entre les deux décisions extrêmes, c'est-à-dire, entre 'la petite solution,' qui est l'exécution du Traité de Berlin, et la 'grande solution,' qui est la suppression de la domination Turque en Europe."

Le "Golos" termine ainsi son Article:—

"D'après la majorité de nos journaux, et d'après les nouvelles mêmes qui arrivent des Localités occupées par nos troupes on aurait pu croire qu'une pareille hésitation existe dans nos sphères administratives. Fort heureusement ce doute n'est plus permis à la suite de la note adressée, selon le 'Globe,' de Livadia, par M. de Giers à Lord Loftus, note dont l'authenticité paraît être confirmée et d'après laquelle 'l'intention de Sa Majesté l'Empereur serait la pacification de l'Orient par l'exécution scrupuleuse du Traité de Berlin, dont aucun fonctionnaire Russe ne saurait se départir.' Ces déclarations Impériales sont d'une très-grande valeur. Elles doivent faire tomber toutes les calomnies propagées par la presse étrangère sur l'attitude et les procédés de nos autorités militaires dans la péninsule des Balkans."

No. 554.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 157. Political.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Trebizond, November 8, 1878.*

THE question of appointing an Armenian as Governor-General at Erzeroum having been raised some time since, I take the liberty to submit respectfully a few observations on the subject.

If, notwithstanding that the Armenians are everywhere in Anatolia in minority, a Christian Governor is to be nominated, the last place to be fixed for his residence is Erzeroum, which will become by that fact, and owing to its proximity to the frontier, the focus of Russian intrigue.

But the appointment in question at Erzeroum, or elsewhere, besides not gratifying to their full extent the wishes of the Armenians, is not likely to promote their welfare in the least.

In their present mood nothing short of the creation of an independent Principality will satisfy them, and this is not likely to take place at present.

However, this important change would, perhaps, be less injurious to British interests than the simple nomination of an Armenian as Governor-General.

Examined exclusively under the Armenian point of view, the question presents three possible cases.

1. The Porte may succeed in appointing a functionary devoted to its interests.

I have had no occasion to hear generally of the feelings of the Armenians on the subject, but having sounded a few years since on a similar question the Greek populations of the twelve Isles of the Sporades, forming the district of Rhodes, they, without exception, told me plainly that the nomination of Christians as Governors would be the worst service that could be rendered to them. They adduced as principal motive for their objection, that their co-religionists, in order to avoid suspicion from the Porte, would be less tolerant than the Mussulmans themselves, who, at all events, had no fear to be suspected to side with them. There is no motive to suppose, and the little that I have been able to gather on the subject tends to confirm this opinion, that the objection of the Greeks in the Archipelago does not apply as well to the Armenians in Anatolia.

2. The choice, by chance or influence from without, may fall on an Armenian only devoted to the interests of his countrymen.

But, owing to the Mussulmans forming by at least one-third the majority, and to the pressure which will be exercised on him by the other elements of the Turkish administration, he will be unable to promote the welfare of his countrymen.

They, being deluded in hopes impossible to realize at present, will find themselves more unhappy than before, and be deprived even of the satisfaction which they now enjoy, to complain of the maladministration of Mussulman functionaries.

3. It may also happen that the Armenian Governor-General be a Russian partizan, of whom there are but too many in the service of the Porte.

He may satisfy for a time in insignificant matters the wishes of his countrymen, but as he will be acting under the inspiration of his patrons, it can only be to the important detriment of all future prospects of emancipation of the Armenians as an independent nationality.

In no case, therefore, can real benefit accrue to them from the appointment at the present moment of one of their co-religionists as Governor-General, while the evils that may be the consequence of this nomination may have the most fatal issue in other respects.

It is essential for general British interests to introduce reforms in Anatolia, and in order to do so it is required that Great Britain should uphold her influence in Asia Minor.

The Mussulmans are clamouring as loudly as, and with more reason than, the Christians, for a better administration. In fact, the former have their respective ecclesiastical authorities, which are invested with civil power to assist them in their claims; they always find a Consul ready to protect them against, or represent to higher authorities, the abuses of which they may be the victims; they make their voices heard through newspapers to the world at large, and if they do not always obtain redress, they live in the hope that the list of accusations which they accumulate against their rulers will finally conduce to their emancipation.

The Mussulmans are in a far different and unenviable position. They can only apply for redress to the very authorities against which they have to complain; they are restrained by a sort of patriotism, or by religious fanaticism, from submitting their grievances against their own Government to foreigners; and with the exception with British Agents, in cases of flagrant injustice which may happen to come to their knowledge, Consuls never raise their voice in favour of oppressed Mussulmans; they are not in the habit to give publicity through the press to the abuses heaped upon them, and, if they did so, no heed would be taken of their complaints; finally, instead of a hopeful future, they see before them nothing but cause of discouragement and despair.

This I sincerely belive to be the situation in Anatolia.

If at this juncture a Christian be appointed Governor-General in Armenia, whether it be the result of British intervention or not, the Mussulmans, who now place all their confidence in England, will think, as they cannot doubt of her power, that she is as hostile to their race, land, and religion as Russia herself. Their feelings will be deeply wounded, and their present sympathy estranged by the belief that British intervention is only in favour of Christians.

By England thus losing her influence on the Mussulmans, who, as already stated, form in Anatolia the majority, and consequently the real strength of the country, no reforms are possible.

The Armenians, for whose benefit the measure would have been adopted, will be the first sufferers, while the Mussulmans will sink from discouragement to complete demoralization, and consequently lose those qualities which make of them so splendid soldiers. However, as, according to all probabilities, the Mussulman element in Anatolia is called to play a prominent part, by the side of England, in the struggle which some day or other is expected to take place between Great Britain and Russia, that element must be raised rather than lowered in its present standing, and to attain this end reforms are indispensable.

The Mussulmans may have lost their respect for the person of the Sultan, but they have nevertheless the same reverence as heretofore for the sacred authority which he represents. They will submit, as they have submitted hitherto, even when they were far from welcome to them, to all the orders issued by the Government; and they will accept reforms the more readily that they long themselves for an amelioration in the administration.

When those in power at Constantinople put forward the opposition to be met in the provinces, they simply shield themselves behind the populations in order to promote their own views.

No serious opposition is to be apprehended here, provided that the Central Government act honestly.

If anything is to be feared, and with reason, it is the general discontent and the disorders which prevail in consequence of maladministration.

An energetic Governor can overcome abuses and prejudices, even those based on fanaticism. An evident proof of my assertion is in the fact that Mussulmans have lately been convicted at Erzeroum on the simple testimony of Christians, a case without precedent in that quarter, and which was supposed to present the greatest difficulties.

However, before touching the existing institutions, it is essential that the Mussulmans should be convinced by facts that the reforms tend to the general good, and not only to favour the Christians.

This end can be attained by the elimination of incapable or corrupt officials from the service; by the strict distribution of justice in the local Courts; by the institution of a strong and well-paid police force; by the expenditure of a proportion of the taxes levied in the provinces towards the construction and maintenance of roads; by the promotion of all undertakings that may be calculated to develop the material resources of the country; in a word, by the very measures which Her Majesty's Government has recommended the Porte to adopt.

When the Mussulmans will be convinced that these innovations tend to the general good, their domination on the Christians can be gradually and easily destroyed.

But it is hardly to be hoped that the reforms decided upon will be put into execution by functionaries who, in general, place their personal interest before that of their country, and who have all to lose and nothing to gain by an amelioration in the existing system. There may be, and there are, honest and energetic officials, but their number being limited their efforts in the right direction will continue to be thwarted.

The real obstacle to reforms is the ill-will of the majority of the governing class, and not in the opposition to be met in the populations.

Under these circumstances, unless carried out under the strong pressure of Great Britain, the projected innovations will remain a dead letter, and to be effective that pressure should be supported by a British force occupying Armenia, the other advantages of which occupation I have pointed out in a previous Report.

A province administered by British officers will offer such advantages to the Christian population that it is beyond doubt that Armenians will flock in, not only from other parts of the Ottoman Empire but also from Russia and Persia. They may in time form the majority of the inhabitants, or perhaps present, in a small body, an intellectual superiority which may compensate for the number.

An autonomous Armenia would then cease to be an Utopia, and should its creation be considered advisable, the scheme could be carried out without apprehension of any shock whatever.

If I have entered on a subject which is already out of question, or considered to be beyond my competence, I trust that your Lordship will pardon my having encroached on your most valuable time in consideration of my desire to fulfil what I conceived to be a duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 555.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 158. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, November 9, 1878.*

MR. CONSULAR AGENT DOULCET, of Samsoon, reports that the Mussulman emigrants, mostly Nogais, from the Dobrudscha, not being satisfied with their situation at Samsoon, had asked to be allowed to return to their country, which was refused to them by the Porte.

An Imperial Commissioner, Kémal Pasha, having been dispatched from Constantinople to smooth all difficulties, the emigrants made up their minds to settle in the different spots assigned to them, and of their numbers there are now at Samsoon only a few individuals who possess serious means of existence.

It would seem that the Governors have received formal orders from the Porte not to allow the emigrants, whether Bulgarians or Abazians, to return to their native countries.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 556.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 25.*)

(No. 1422.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a despatch from Acting Consul Barker, giving some details respecting the Bulgarian insurrection in the Province of Seres, in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

Inclosure in No. 556.

Acting Consul Barker to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, November 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that, from a letter which has been received by the Vali from the Mutessarif of Seres, I have learnt officially the following particulars:—

On the $\frac{4}{16}$th October two horsemen came from Jumma-ha, in the district of Roumelia, to Grassna, a military post on the frontiers of the Seres district, where 140 soldiers were stationed as frontier guards, and asked irrelevant questions of no meaning, evidently sent as spies by the Bulgarian insurrectionists at Jumma-ha and Kharpess.

The next day a small body of armed Bulgarians came to Grassna, killed fourteen of the guards and carried away the others prisoners. Two large Bulgarian villages then joined the insurgents.

On the $\frac{11}{16}$th October a much larger body of armed Bulgarians passed over into the Seres district, towards Molenek, and were joined by seventeen Bulgarian villages on the other side of the Kara-Sou River. They burned seven Turkish villages, containing 1,618 persons, 721 houses. Their names are as follows: Pressnitza, Moraska, Boutnitza, Islamnitza, Kumnitza, Morava, and Doxat.

The losses sustained is about 30,000 liras. In the burning of these villages 42 men, 12 women, and 15 children lost their lives, and 2 men were wounded; 15 other persons were killed in other parts of the district. The tax-gatherers are missing: their fate unknown.

On Thursday, the 7th instant, an Austrian steamer brought here Ferik Ahmed Pasha, with a medical military staff for Kossova and Uskub.

As far as I can learn, 12,000 men are encamped about Prisrend, at present in the Kossova district, and there are 3,600 men gone to Seres.

M. Oulianow, Russian Secretary, has arrived here from Constantinople to remain here as Acting Consul, and his instructions are to verify and report on the matter, whether it be true that there are Russian officers commanding the insurgent Bulgarians as has been reported. He finds immense difficulty in finding a house to lodge in; the only alternative, the hotel, is hardly acceptable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWARD B. B. BARKER.

No. 557.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, November 17, 1878.*

A DECREE has appeared in the official paper creating a regularly organized Servian Diplomatic Corps, which is to consist of Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary, Ministers Resident, and Chargés d'Affaires.

Except in regard to Vienna and Constantinople, to which posts MM. Sukitz and Philip Christich have been gazetted as Envoys Extraordinary and Ministers Plenipotentiary, no nominations will take place until the Skuptchina has voted the necessary supplies.

I have, &c.
(Signed) G. F. GOULD.

No. 558.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 632. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 22, 1878.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram this morning I called on the Minister for Foreign Affairs and spoke to his Excellency on the subject of the recognition of Roumania, in the sense of your Lordship's despatch No. 187A of the 12th instant.

Her Majesty's Government, I said, as his Excellency already knew, were in favour of granting that recognition for the following reasons:—

In the first place because a very strong pledge of obedience to the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin had been given by a vote of the Roumanian Chambers and subsequent Circular from the Roumanian Government; and in the second place because there was a danger, if the Western Powers persisted in withholding that recognition, that the Roumanian Government, having obtained it of the Powers which most nearly concerned them, might treat the refusal of the Western Powers with entire disregard, and might make any subsequent advances on their part exceedingly difficult.

Now I learnt that his Excellency had again instructed the German Ambassador in London to press Her Majesty's Government to withhold their recognition of Roumania until the Jewish disabilities are removed, in accordance with Articles XLIII and XLIV of the Treaty of Berlin.

His Excellency had no doubt already learnt through Count Münster that the wish of Her Majesty's Government to recognize the independence of Roumania was not from any indifference to religious liberty, but because Russia was imposing on Roumania conditions of a military right of way lasting beyond nine months, and the fortification by Russia of the forts of the Danube. If, therefore, Germany, I said, wanted Her Majesty's Government not to recognize, they ought to discourage these Russian pretensions, which were most dangerous to the peace of Europe.

M. de Bülow replied that, much as the German Government wished to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government, it was impossible in the present instance to follow the course proposed by your Lordship, because the German Government was pledged by a declaration made to the Reichstag, at the time of the rejection of the Commercial Convention, to obtain equal rights for all German subjects in Roumania, so that even if all the Powers agree to recognize before the fulfilment by the Roumanian Legislature of the conditions laid down in Article XLIV of the Berlin Treaty, the German Government would still have to adhere to the reservations made in Article XLIII, according to which the recognition is subject to the Act of Emancipation, which is to give equal rights to all, without distinction of creed.

The French Government, his Excellency said, appeared to share the view of the German Government in this matter, and the Italian Government had made certain reservations in a similar sense, in virtue of which the new Italian Minister at Bucharest was to suspend the presentations of his credentials until the Jewish disabilities were finally removed. He did not, for his part, apprehend that the conditions Russia might endeavour to impose on Roumania would be influenced or promoted by this recognition question, and he could not but indulge in the earnest hope that Her Majesty's Government might, in concert with France, Italy, and Germany, still be induced to withhold their recognition until the complete establishment of religious liberty in Roumania.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 559.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 632. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, November 22, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 626, Confidential, of the 17th instant, respecting the Porte's wish to consult the opinion of the Powers upon the Russian demand for the conclusion of a definitive Treaty of Peace between Russia and Turkey, I am told that M. de Bülow has not yet sent any answer to the Turkish Ambassador here, but that he has instructed the German Ambassador at Constantinople to explain, if he should be consulted, that the German Government thinks the Porte would do wisely to make such arrangements under their Treaty obligations as would deprive Russia of all excuse to delay the complete evacuation of Turkish territory any longer.

I have, &c
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 560.

Musurus Bey to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, Londres, le 22 Novembre, 1878.

My Lord.

PAR une dépêche télégraphique en date du 18 de ce mois, son Altesse Safvet Pacha m'informe que la Sublime Porte, voulant réformer le système Douanier de l'Empire a décidé de faire venir de Londres deux spécialistes distingués ayant acquis

par un service prolongé dans les douanes Anglaises une expérience approfondie et toutes les connaissances voulues dans cette branche de l'administration. En me faisant en même temps savoir que ces spécialistes, qui auront le titre, l'un de Sous-Directeur et l'autre d'Inspecteur, doivent être des personnalités d'une capacité éprouvée, et que l'Ambassade Impériale à Paris a été également invitée à engager de son côté deux autres spécialistes Français ayant les mêmes attributions, son Altesse m'invite à m'adresser à votre Excellence pour le choix des deux spécialistes Anglais, et à lui faire connaître leurs noms ainsi que les conditions de leur engagement.

Dans la conviction que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine, qui nous a toujours témoigné une grande sollicitude pour la réorganisation et l'amélioration de toutes les branches de notre administration, voudra bien faire un accueil favorable à la demande du Gouvernement Impérial en détachant du personnel des Douanes Royales deux fonctionnaires distingués, son Altesse me charge d'exprimer d'avance à votre Excellence les vifs remercîments de la Sublime Porte.

En m'acquittant par la présente des instructions contenues dans la dépêche télégraphique de son Altesse Salvet Pacha, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) ET. MUSURUS.

No. 561.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 1028.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 24, 1878.*

AS soon as I communicated first part of your telegram of the 19th in answer to my telegram 1004 to the Sultan, he directed Ministers, in pursuance of his promise to me, to consult with military authorities as to a new frontier for Greece and to submit their decision to him. I have heard to-day from an authorized source that the Sultan is resolved to come to an equitable arrangement with Greece.

No. 562.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 1029.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 24, 1878.*

VICE-CONSUL at Philippopolis telegraphs to-day :—

"Four hundred volunteers have been enrolled at Tzalapitza and other villages close to Philippopolis for service in Macedonia. Enrolment is going on without attempt at concealment."

No. 563.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 25.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 24, 1878.*

GENERAL STOLIPINE has suggested to Bulgarians that Christian Governor of this province should be an Armenian citizen. The Bulgarians are talking in this sense. It is also said that ex-President Grant is a candidate for the Principality of Bulgaria.

I cannot guarantee the truth of this second report, but have good grounds for the first.

I have been enabled to verify truth of my telegram of yesterday as to recruitment of Bulgarians in this neighbourhood for Macedonia.

No. 564.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 25, 1878.*

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF informs me that substantially, the only reason which prevents the immediate evacuation of Turkey Proper is that Podgoritza and Spuz have not been evacuated; that Labanoff has been instructed to propose that the two movements should take place simultaneously; that Turkey shall retire from Spuz and Podgoritza, and Russia shall retire at the same time from all the territory outside Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria. If Labanoff makes this proposition, support it with all your power. If he does not, make it yourself.

I cannot anticipate that Porte will hesitate to accept so advantageous a proposal. But if any hesitation is shown you are authorized to use any menace you think calculated to procure their assent. Count Schouvaloff at the same time undertakes that number retained after this evacuation in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia shall not exceed 50,000 men.

No. 565.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 25, 1878.*

GERMAN Ambassador read to me to-day a telegram from his Government to the effect that Russian Ambassador at Berlin had categorically denied that any negotiations for a permanent military right of way through Roumania had taken place, and stating that the only negotiations which had taken place had been for the purpose of ensuring the strict execution of the XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin. Whatever the truth of this, it implies abandonment of claim.

No. 566.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 25, 1878, 5·20 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram of the 22nd instant, the Roumanian Convention was designated a Special Convention, and is in its terms clearly temporary.

In any case Russia, by a flagrant breach of the IInd Article, has torn the Treaty up.

No. 567.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 25, 1878.*

THE French Ambassador confirmed to me news which I had received from Mr. White and from the German Ambassador, that Russian negotiations for way-leave through Roumania had been abandoned. He read me a telegram from Waddington pressing that we should withhold our recognition till more progress had been made in the removal of Jewish disabilities.

I replied that our apprehensions on the subject of a Convention with Russia having been removed, we were as anxious as France for a due execution of the provision of Treaty in favour of religious liberty.

No. 568.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Foreign Office, November 25, 1878, 7·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

SHOUVALOFF tells me Dondoukoff has been severely censured by the Emperor, and has been informed that he will be held personally responsible by the Emperor for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. Schouvaloff further says Emperor has heard with the greatest horror that Russian authorities in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria have given encouragement to Bulgarian revolutionary movements in Turkish provinces, and that he has sent the orders, expressed with great sternness, to Todleben, to prevent any such encouragement.

No. 569.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, November 25, 1878, 7·15 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR despatch No. 814.

Her Majesty's Government authorize you to discuss with Count Andrassy the arrangement mentioned therein.

If any understanding can be established, England, as we stated at Berlin, is willing to bear a part proportionate to her military strength.

No. 570.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

Foreign Office, November 25, 1878.

(Telegraphic.)

PLEASE let me know if Austrians are giving title of Highness to Prince of Servia, and whether they object to our doing so.

No. 571.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

Foreign Office, November 25, 1878, 7·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

COUNT MÜNSTER read me telegram stating that M. d'Oubril had denied positively any negotiations for military way-leave through Dobrudscha, and had said that object of negotiations which had taken place were to ensure more thorough execution of Article XXII of Treaty. Under these circumstances they urged us to withhold recognition.

I said that as long as there was no danger of Russian Convention with Roumania, we were quite willing to comply with the wishes of Prince Bismarck, and were not less anxious than he was for the punctual execution of the Treaty. We should, therefore, for the present, withhold recognition.

No. 572.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

Foreign Office, November 25, 1878.

(No. 1453.)

Sir,

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF, who has just returned from Livadia, viâ Pesth and Paris, where he has seen Count Andrassy and M. Waddington, informs me that substantially the only reason which prevents the evacuation by Russia of the Turkish provinces south of the Balkans is that Podgoritza and Spuz have not yet been ceded by Turkey.

His Excellency stated that Prince Lobanoff had received instructions to propose to the Porte that the withdrawal of the Russian troops from all the territory outside

Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, and the surrender by Turkey of these two places, should take place simultaneously.

If this proposal should be made by the Russian Ambassador, Her Majesty's Government would wish that it should be supported by your Excellency with all your power. Should it not be made by him, you will yourself suggest it, and recommend it to the most favourable consideration of the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government can scarcely anticipate that they will hesitate to accept so advantageous an offer, but should they show any hesitation to do so, you are authorized to use any language, as to the possible consequences of delay in closing with it on their part, which you may consider best adapted to procure their assent.

Count Schouvaloff has further given me the assurance that when this evacuation is completed, the number of Russian troops to be retained in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia shall not exceed 50,000 men.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 573.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 607.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1878.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF called upon me this afternoon, and in the course of conversation made statements of which the following is a summary.

He had come, he said, to London straight through from Pesth, where he found himself in disagreement with Count Andrassy on several points, especially as regards Count Andrassy's desire to encourage Montenegro to wrest Spuz and Podgoritza by force from Turkey, which he had discouraged as tending to light up a general war in Turkey.

Count Andrassy had also maintained, against Count Schouvaloff's opinion, that the Treaty of San Stefano, where not overruled by the Congress of Berlin, had been sanctioned by that assemblage.

It had been his own intention, Count Schouvaloff said, to travel to England viâ Friedrichsruhe, in order to see Prince Bismarck, but he had not done so lest it should cause a renewal of the reports concerning the "Drei-Kaiser-Bund."

He informed me that the Emperor Alexander intended to return shortly to St. Petersburgh, and would doubtless make some arrangements as to the composition of his Government. At present nothing was settled. Personally, he did not believe that Prince Gortchakow would be allowed to go back, though it was his Highness' wish to resume his duties as Chancellor of the Empire. He had written repeatedly to the Czar to say he was never in better health in his life, but no notice had been taken of his letters.

Count Schouvaloff then went on to speak of matters of policy, and chiefly concerning the Russian troops which are now occupying a part of Turkey proper, the neighbourhood of Adrianople (which, for want of a better name, he said he would call Southern Roumelia).

The Austrians, he said, had been pressing the Russian Government very much upon this point, laying the blame on the English, who, they stated, had been urging them on; but, on arriving at Pesth, he had found that this was a pretence—(it did not transpire whence this information was derived)—that the English, though very stiff upon the ultimate evacuation in May, were indifferent concerning this immediate evacuation of Southern Roumelia.

Count Schouvaloff attributed our indifference on this point to a desire to keep our ships in the Sea of Marmora for the purpose of influencing the Turks.

I assured his Excellency that this was a mistake; that the influence exercised from Artaki or Ismid was scarcely appreciable; that our sailors were very tired of the Sea of Marmora and anxious to leave it; and that Her Majesty's Government were very earnest in their wish to see the Russians evacuate the territory occupied by them in contravention of the Treaty of Berlin, because their continued presence there was exhausting the resources of the Sultan, both by diminishing his revenue and increasing his expenses.

Count Schouvaloff admitted their position to be illegal, but said that they had three grounds of defence.

The first was that the Sultan refused to sign the definitive Treaty of Peace between

Russia and Turkey. This was indispensable to Russia, because Turkey was arguing that the San Stefano Treaty, being preliminary, was superseded by the Treaty of Berlin, even in those parts which the latter Treaty did not deal with.

But his Excellency admitted that Europe might justly say that this was an affair which concerned Russia and Turkey, but in no way affected Europe, and could not excuse a breach of the Treaty of Berlin. The Czar entirely repudiated (and had done from the first) the doctrine which Prince Lobanoff had invented, that Russia had a right to make her evacuation conditional on the signature of this definitive Treaty. He promised to bring me a copy of this instrument on Thursday.

The second consideration which had hindered the evacuation was the necessity of providing for the 18,000 refugees who insisted on following the Russian army. Count Schouvaloff saw great difficulty in disposing of this hindrance, and did not think that, on grounds of humanity, Europe could altogether disregard it. But this cause, he admitted, could not not justify a delay in the evacuation beyond a certain point.

The third and substantial reason on which really the evacuation depended was the neglect of Turkey to fulfil her Treaty engagements by the evacuation of Spuz and Podgoritza.

I said that this step had been constantly urged on the Porte by Her Majesty's Government with the utmost earnestness, and that I would do so again that night. Count Schouvaloff begged that if I did so I would put the two evacuations together, and inform the Porte that the immediate evacuation of Southern Roumelia would be conditional on a similar evacuation of Spuz and Podgoritza.

His Excellency then spoke of the Emperor's difficulty in getting his orders obeyed. When His Majesty heard that the Bulgarian insurrection had been organized and countenanced within the Russian lines, he spoke of it with indignation and horror. He telegraphed at once to General Todleben, giving him the most positive instructions to put a stop to it; and received from him the most formal assurances that within the territory occupied by the Russian army nothing of the kind should be permitted.

The Czar also telegraphed to Prince Dondoukoff, warning him that if his acts or language thwarted in any way the policy of the Czar, which consisted in a punctual execution of the Treaty of Berlin, he would be held personally responsible. The difficulty with Prince Dondoukoff, Count Schouvaloff said, was his habit of drinking, which made him speak perfectly without restraint. Count Schouvaloff had been at Livadia when our remonstrance as to Prince Dondoukoff's language to Lord Donoughmore arrived. He thought it might justly have been spoken of in much stronger words than had been used. The Czar was intensely anxious to terminate the occupation of Southern Roumelia, because until that was done he was unable to issue the Proclamation of Peace, and also, his Excellency added, for other very grave reasons, which I gathered pointed to finance.

He then spoke about Afghanistan. The Mission, he thought, was perfectly justifiable on the part of Russia. At one time England and Russia had been very near "les coups de canon;" and when the Indian troops appeared in the Mediterranean it was but an elementary measure of self-defence to attempt to arrange a diversion by way of Afghanistan. He himself, however, had known nothing about it. Although he had gone after the signing of the Treaty of Berlin for three weeks to St. Petersburgh, no one had told him anything of this measure, and he first heard of it through the newspapers at Wildbad. He had gone straight to Prince Gortchakow, who was there, and had asked him, "Is it true there is a Mission to Cabul?" "No, I think not," replied the Prince. The Mission would, however, have been withdrawn at once, only a good deal of strong writing about it commenced in the English newspapers, and the Russians did not like to put it in the power of the English to say that their threats had driven them (the Russians) away. It was absolutely untrue that any aid to the Ameer had been sent from Russia either in the way of officers or arms. Count Schouvaloff had no information about General Kaufmann's speech. He did not think it possible that he could have been rightly reported; at any rate, it was directly at variance with his instructions.

Count Schouvaloff had met the Russian Envoy, General Stolietoff at Livadia; the General had been much astonished, first, at being received with open arms by the Ameer, and then at finding the intense hatred borne to the English by the Ameer.

The Ameer had stated to the Envoy that Sir N. Chamberlain was a friend of his. On being asked why he had refused to receive his Embassy, he had answered that General Chamberlain would come laden with gold to corrupt all his Ministers.

The Envoy had come to the conclusion that the Ameer's soldiers were very good, but badly armed. The Ameer, however, was "un imbecile," as he believed himself to

be the most powerful Monarch in the world. Count Schouvaloff thought that if we had allowed another fortnight's grace the Ameer would have yielded to the English demands. He had conceived hopes of assistance from Russia, and had made an application for it, but, owing to the enormous distance, there was not time for the unfavourable answer to be received before the 20th November.

Count Schouvaloff regretted that he had not been here in time to convey this information to Her Majesty's Government, who doubtless would have seen in it a good reason for giving the Ameer a respite.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 574.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 126.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1878.*

THE Russian Ambassador informs me that the Emperor has severely censured Prince Dondoukoff, and that the latter has been told that the Emperor will hold him personally responsible for the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

Count Schouvaloff also said that the Emperor evinced the greatest horror at hearing that encouragement had been given to the revolutionary movements of the Bulgarians in the Turkish provinces by the Russian authorities in Eastern Roumelia and Bulgaria, and orders had been sent to General Todleben by His Imperial Majesty, expressed with great sternness, to prevent the continuance of any such encouragement on the part of Russian authorities.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 575.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 598.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1878.*

MR. GOULD having reported that the French Agent at Bucharest has notified in writing the French recognition of the assumption by Prince Milan of the title of Highness, I have requested your Excellency to-day, by telegraph, to inform me whether the Austro-Hungarian Government have instructed, or propose to instruct, their Agent to recognize this title, and whether they have any objection to its recognition by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 576.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 599.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 808 of the 16th instant, I have to inform you that your conduct in communicating to Count Andrassy the promise of assistance to the Sultan, on the part of this country, in compelling the Russians to observe the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin as to the evacuation of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia nine months after the ratification of the Treaty, meets with the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 577.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 600.) *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1878.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language which your Excellency used to the Roumanian Minister, as reported in your despatch No. 811 of the 17th instant, as to the manner in which the Roumanian Government should meet the Russian demand for the concession of the right of military passage through the Dobrudscha.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 578.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 602. Confidential.) *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1878.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency reported, in your despatch No. 813 of the 19th instant, that Count Andrassy had expressed to you his opinion that it would be advantageous that the Powers should exchange their views upon the question of the expediency of a European occupation of the Turkish provinces now occupied by Russia, to replace the Russian occupation, if, when the time arrived fixed by the Treaty for their evacuation, the presence of foreign troops should be rendered necessary by the state of the country; and you added that it was your impression that he would be prepared to undertake that Austria-Hungary should furnish her contingent for the purpose, if Her Majesty's Government should think fit to discuss with him such an arrangement.

I have authorized your Excellency, by telegraph, to discuss with Count Andrassy the arrangement to which you refer; and you may say that Her Majesty's Government are prepared to abide by the statement made by the British Plenipotentiaries at Berlin; and that England will, consequently, be ready, if an understanding on the subject can be established, to bear a part, proportionate to her military strength, in a European occupation of the provinces.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 579.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Odo Russell.

(No. 505.) *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1878.

My Lord,

COUNT MÜNSTER called, and read to me a telegram from Berlin respecting the Russian negotiations with Roumania. From these it appeared that the Russian Ambassador at Berlin had formally contradicted the report that any negotiations were in progress or suggestions had been made for the conclusion of a Treaty giving to Russia a military way through the Dobrudscha. The only negotiations which had been going on were for the purpose of facilitating the complete execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I said, in reply, that so long as our apprehensions of any such Convention were fully removed we had no desire to precipitate recognition in opposition to the wishes of Prince Bismarck, and would, in accordance with his suggestion, wait some more distinct assurance of the conformity of Roumania to the wishes of the Congress in respect to the treatment of the Jews.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 580.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 793.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1878.

I HAVE to inform your Excellency that the intelligence which I had previously received from Her Majesty's Agent at Bucharest, and from the German Ambassador at this Court, to the effect that the negotiations which had been carried on by the Russian Government, with the view of obtaining the right of passage through Roumania, had been abandoned, has now been confirmed to me by the French Ambassador, who also read to me a telegram which he had received from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, urging that Her Majesty's Government should withhold their recognition of Roumanian independence until more progress had been made towards the removal of the disabilities to which members of the Jewish faith are subject in that Principality.

I replied that the apprehensions which Her Majesty's Government had entertained on the subject of a Convention between Russia and Roumania having now been removed, they were as anxious as the French Government for a due execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin in favour of religious liberty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 581.

Mr. E. F. Harrison to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, November* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that the Financial Commission, at its sitting to-day, was occupied in the consideration of the project recently submitted by the Finance Minister to the Grand Vizier for the negotiation of a loan of 20,000,000*l.* sterling under the guarantee of the British Government.

It is probable that your Lordship is in possession of the details of this proposal, but it may be of advantage that I should state the essential features of the project as they were placed before the Commission.

It is proposed to invite subscriptions in London for a loan of 20,000,000*l.* sterling, bearing interest at 4 per cent., with a sinking fund of 1 per cent.; both interest and sinking fund being payable in quarterly instalments.

It is assumed that the proceeds of the loan will amount to 20,000,000*l.* sterling, and it is proposed to apply that amount as follows:—

	£
1. To discharge the loans of 1854, 1855, 1871, and 1877	11,930,260
2. Towards payment of some of the most pressing current debts and expenses. .	3,000,000
3. To apply the balance towards the amelioration of the condition of the currency by withdrawing the inconvertible paper (caimé) and a part of the "beshlik," or coin of low alloy, now in circulation	5,069,740
Total	20,000,000

By way of security for the loan it is proposed to assign—

	£	s.	d.
1. The amount of the Egyptian Tribute	681,872	4	5
2. The amount accruing to the Turkish Government from the Revenues of the island of Cyprus This is taken at	136,363	12	7
3. Out of the Customs Revenue of Syria the sum of	181,764	3	0
Total	1,000,000	0	0

The data as regards the loans to be discharged are as follows:—

	Issue price.	Present price of Stock in London.	Original amount of Loan.	Amount outstanding.	Rate of redemption.	Amount payable at said rate.
			£	£		£
1854	80	70	3,000,000	1,781,850	80	1,425,480
1855	100	100	5,000,000	3,815,200	100	3,815,200
1871	68	50	5,700,000	5,378,700	60	3,227,220
1877	54	60	5,000,000	4,946,260	70	3,462,380
Total	..	..	18,700,000	15,922,010	..	11,930,280

By this operation the capital amount of the Turkish funded or bond debt would be increased by 4,077,990*l.* sterling (20,000,000*l.* minus 15,922,010*l.*), and the Turkish Government would obtain the sum of 8,069,720*l.* sterling, applicable to the important objects indicated.

From the point of view of the Government of the Porte, this plan appears to offer many advantages, and I had no hesitation in agreeing that it should receive the support of the Commission.

It affords the prospect of relief from the intolerable burden to the public Treasury and to the people occasioned by the disordered state of the currency, and in saving the Government from the loss of revenue caused by the caimé it is calculated to improve sensibly the position of the general bondholders.

On the other hand, the scheme would appear to be open to some objections. It offers no adequate advantage to the holders of the Guaranteed Debt of 1855, and, in regard to the other loans which it embraces, although giving substantial benefit to the bondholders, and appearing to be one which, in the disordered condition of the Turkish finances, the Government of the Porte is justified in making, it is yet attended with the difficulty that it demands the previous assent of the bondholders.

On the subject of the sufficiency of the sum of 5,000,000*l.* sterling to effect the withdrawal of the caimé, some remarks seem necessary.

The caimé circulation reached its maximum in the latter part of the month of August, when it exceeded the amount of 1,539,000,000 piastres. Since the 10th October the sum of 12,000 Turkish pounds has been applied weekly to the cancellation of caimé by purchase at current rates. By this means in five weeks the purchases amounted to nearly 21,000,000 piastres, and, taking into account a gift from His Majesty the Sultan of 5,000,000 piastres, and some other gifts received in response to an appeal to the nation, together with the cancellations of the current month, the amount of caimé now in circulation may be taken at 15,000,000 piastres.

The current quotation for caimé is 340 per 100 piastres in gold or Turkish lira; but if it is valued at 300 per Turkish lira (the rate at which it is receivable at the provincial treasuries, and at which the Customs duties to the extent of one-fourth are receivable in paper), the present value of the whole circulation may be taken at 5,000,000 Turkish pounds, or say 4,500,000*l.* sterling.

The sum, therefore, which is reserved in the loan project for the withdrawal of the caimé represents the full value of the circulation at the present time, and if the weekly appropriation of 12,500 Turkish pounds is maintained, some further sensible reduction will have been effected before the assignment from the proceeds of the loan can be applied to the redemption of the bulk of the paper-money.

In all the circumstances of the case it may be thought equitable that the redemption should be effected in the following manner:—

The sum of 8,069,720*l.* sterling (if that should prove to be the exact sum available) might be placed in the hands of Commissioners, who would purchase from the Treasury the whole of the notes received in payment of Government dues at the rate of 1 Turkish lira per 300 piastres caimé. The Commissioners might at the same time purchase from the public all notes offered at the same rate.

The whole of the notes purchased by the Commission would be at once cancelled.

This operation would, I am of opinion, be materially facilitated if the Commissioners were, either directly or through the agency of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, or through a separate department, as might be thought advisable, to issue notes convertible into gold, in place of the inconvertible paper withdrawn in the manner above described.

A well regulated paper currency, with complete security for its convertibility into gold, would be of material advantage to the public, and, when well-established, might be made to yield a profit which could be applied for the benefit of the public creditors.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. F. HARRISON.

No. 582.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 50. Political. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, November 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that I have this day transmitted in cypher to Her Majesty's Minister at Athens the telegram of which I herewith transmit a copy *en clair*.

2. The individual referred to, and his near relative, the Russian Consul at Arta, have had a principal hand in bringing about the present complications in Epirus. The latter especially, to my certain knowledge, has been incessantly working underhand with this object for more than twenty years back.

3. Since the Russian invasion of Roumelia the Varzellis have been stationed at Santa Maura, whence, as members of the insurrectionary Committee, of which that island is the head-quarters, they have carried on their wonted intrigues with relentless activity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES SEBRIGHT.

Inclosure in No. 582.

Consul Sir C. Sebright to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.)

APOSTOLOS VARZELLY, lately Russian Vice-Consul at Prevesa, now *en disponibilité*, left yesterday *en route* for Cyprus, by way of Athens. Most dangerous political agitator. Please warn Government of Cyprus of this. Is a native of Epirus, but a naturalized Greek subject.

No. 583.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 1030.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 25, 1878.*

WITH reference to your telegram of the 26th ultimo, can you yet inform me as to the delimitation of Khotour, and will British Commissioner for the [Alis (?) kend] frontier deal with that of Khotour also?

No. 584.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 26.)

(No. 1031.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 25, 1878.*

GRAND VIZIER is very anxious to have your Lordship's answer as to whether Porte is bound to conclude definitive Treaty of Peace demanded by Russia. Russian draft was transmitted to you in my despatch No. 1148 [? of the] 18th.

Grand Vizier says that revolutionary movement in Macedonia is still fomented by Russians, and that Turkish authorities in the Provinces are asking for fresh troops.

No. 585.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November* 25, 1878.

THERE is much excitement here over the defeat sustained by Count Andrassy in the Committee of the Austrian Delegation, which has declined to vote the supplementary credit for the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina; but it seems to be believed that plenary sitting of the Delegation will reverse decision of Committee, and thus maintain the Count in office.

(Sent to Vienna.)

No. 586.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November* 25, 1878.

HIS Court has sent to the Russian Minister at Bucharest a telegram, *en clair*, authorizing acceptance of Roumanian proposal to now regulate passage of troops across the Dobrudscha by the stipulation of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 587.

Consul Sanderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, November* 26, 1878.

THE Roumanian troops commenced to cross from Ibraïla into the Dobrudscha this morning.

No. 588.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 77.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 25, 1878.

I GATHER from your telegram of the 22nd instant that, although Russia has discontinued her endeavours to persuade the Roumanian Government to accept the fresh Convention offered by her for regulating the passage of Russian troops through the territory belonging to Roumania, a discussion is still taking place upon the rights which are reserved to Russia by Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, and by the two Conventions between Roumania and Russia, which were signed at Bucharest on the 16th April, 1877.

By Article III of the first of these Acts, the additional Convention which was signed on the same day was designated as a Special Convention, and is in terms clearly of a temporary character.

But inasmuch as Russia has committed a flagrant breach of the provisions of the second Article of the first-named Convention in not maintaining and defending the actual integrity of Roumania, she has herself torn up the Treaty.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 589.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 79.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 26, 1878.

THE German Ambassador called upon me to-day and read to me a telegram which he had received from his Government, from which it appears that the Russian Ambassador at Berlin has categorically denied the existence of any negotiations between his Government and that of Roumania for the establishment of a permanent military right of way for the Russian troops through Roumania.

His Excellency further stated that the only negotiations which have taken place have had for object the strict execution of the XXIInd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

It is difficult to say how far these statements are to be relied upon; but it appears to me that it may be inferred from them that the claim for a permanent military right of way has been abandoned by the Russian Government.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 590.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 27.)

(No. 160. Political.)

My Lord, *Trebizond, November* 13, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of my despatch, under to-day's date, to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and also copy of a letter which I have received from Mr. Consular Agent Doulcet, at Samsoon, relative to the little security which there seems to be for the Christian population of Sivas.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 590.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Trebizond, November* 13, 1878.

MR. CONSULAR AGENT DOULCET, at Samsoon, having forwarded to me copy of his telegram of the 9th instant to your Excellency, without informing me whether he has made at the same time a written communication to your Excellency, I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the letter which he has addressed to me on the subject of the attack on the house of a M. Glyanossian, referred to in his telegram, and on the little security that there seems to be for the Christian population at Sivas.

That town being the residence of a Governor-General, near whom I am not accredited, as my colleagues at Trebizond are, all I can do is to refer to your Excellency the details communicated to me by Mr. Doulcet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 590.

Consular Agent Doulcet to Vice-Consul Biliotti.

Monsieur, *Samsoon, le 10 Novembre*, 1878.

J'AI adressé hier à l'Ambassade télégramme suivant:—

"Glyanossian, négociant Arménien à Sivas, homme doux, fort honorable, correspondant de négociants Européens, me télégraphie ainsi:

"Ouzoun Osmanoglou, trois frères, protégés de Mehemet Ali Effendi, venant chez moi au moment où je venais de rentrer à 12 heures, ont voulu casser porte avec menaces m'assassiner. Désespérés lancèrent pierres, cassèrent tous carreaux. Toute ma famille épouvantée. Suis sorti aller avertir autorité. Trois m'ont battu. Foule près 1,000. Une heure après Binbachi venu et ne les a pas arrêtés. Aujourd'hui autorité complétement indifférente. Famille en anxiété et en danger."

Mr. Glyanossian m'est tout particulièrement connu; c'est un homme d'un caractère très-pacifique et conciliant. Ces qualités lui ont concilié l'estime de la population Musulmane de Sivas et des diverses autorités. Il est à la tête d'une maison de commerce, que j'ai fondée il y a quelques années et que j'ai cédée à un ancien drogman à moi, lequel s'est associé avec Glyanossian. Bien que je n'aie plus de grands intérêts dans cet établissement, il passe toujours à Sivas comme m'appartenant, et Glyanossian est considéré comme mon représentant, ce qui ajoute à la considération qu'il a su s'acquérir par ses qualités naturelles.

Si donc un chef de famille se trouvant dans la position où est Glyanossian, a pu subir le mauvais traitement qu'il a décrit dans son télégramme, vous pouvez imaginer à quels dangers ne sont pas exposées les personnes qui n'ont aucune protection.

D'ailleurs, pour vous donner une idée de l'état de surexcitation des esprits dans la population Musulmane contre les Chrétiens, voici ce que m'écrivait Mr. Glyanossian quelques jours avant l'accident qui lui est arrivé: "Les Musulmans sont très-excités contre les Chrétiens, ils prêchent chaque jour contre eux les plus terribles menaces, et aujourd'hui ils vont répétant que dans dix jours ils mettront à mort tous les Chrétiens."

Il paraît que le Vali de Sivas ne se préoccupe pas du tout de cette situation critique où se trouve la population Chrétienne.

Aux représentations qu'on lui fait à ce sujet il répond: "que puis-je faire avec la faible force armée dont je dispose?" C'est une très mauvaise raison, et la vérité est que ce fonctionnaire manque d'énergie et de bonne volonté.

Il importe beaucoup, dans l'intérêt de ses administrés Chrétiens qu'il soit promptement rappelé à l'observance de ses devoirs, et je suis certain que vous ferez tout ce qui pourra dépendre de vous pour qu'il en soit ainsi. J'espère d'ailleurs que l'Ambassade ne tardera pas à prendre cette grave affaire à cœur et s'efforcera de la mener à bonne fin.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) N. DOULCET.

No. 591.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 27.*)

(No. 161. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, November 14, 1878.*

THE Kaïmakam of Rizeh, Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi, has asked and obtained permission to come to Trebizond in order to explain verbally to Yussuf Pasha the motive which prevents him from thoroughly carrying out the instructions of the Porte, to arrest the individuals guilty of the outrage at Hodoortchoor. (Reference to despatches Nos. 128, 131, 142, and 153 of the present year.)

Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi, a native of Artwin, of which district he was Kaïmakam during the last war, is an energetic and well-disposed functionary.

By order of Yussuf Pasha he managed, when he had almost no police force at his disposal, to arrest Salih Bairaktar and Tuylioglu, wealthy and influential individuals at Rizeh, who had committed the robbery at the church of Motirgoed.

Great efforts have been made since by their families to obtain their release, and the Medjliss of Trebizond is said to have received 150*l.*, an accusation which it is impossible to prove, but which is, nevertheless, generally believed here to be grounded. Luckily that Yussuf Pasha being above bribery these two individuals are still in prison.

But the protection that guilty parties may find in the Medjlisses entertains the hope of escape from punishment, and thwarts the efforts of the executive power when it happens to be in the hands of well-disposed functionaries.

When Ali Nihad Effendi was ordered to arrest the parties suspected to have perpetrated the outrage at Hodoortchoor he had twenty zaptiehs, who, being natives of Rizeh, could not be relied upon, more especially as the arrest and non-conviction of Salih Baïraktar and Mustafa Tuylioglu had more or less turned public opinion against him.

By direction of Yussuf Pasha, a company of soldiers having been ordered to assist him, he apprehended sixty-six individuals under suspicion, amongst whom eighteen are to be real culprits, and eight the concealers of those who have not yet been arrested. Three of the principals in the outrage are still at large, owing to the protection of a certain Doochdji Oglu Mahmud Aga, and of his son-in-law, Maksood Bey.

This Mahmud Aga, who is the son of a Déré Bey, and the Chief of a numerous clan, is immensely rich, and consequently all powerful. The Cadi of Rizeh seems to submit to his influence. The Mudir of Kara Déré gave shelter, and assisted the above-mentioned individuals to escape because Mahmud Aga protected them.

It is generally believed here that no Kaïmakam can remain at Rizeh unless he manages to be in favour with him.

The fact that Ali Nihad Effendi has dared to oppose and denounce him speaks volumes in favour of his energy. He has even managed to induce some of the members of the Medjliss and of the leading Mussulmans to sign mashattas, of which he gave me copies, proving that Mahmud Aga is using his influence to protect the three individuals in question. But the Kaïmakam told me that unless he is supported by the Government at Trebizond he could not return to Rizeh, as his life might be in danger.

At the instigation of Ali Nihad Effendi, I advised Yussuf Pasha, who promised to do so, to furnish him, but without the knowledge of the Medjliss here, with a letter for Mahmud Aga, warning him that if the brothers Dursun and Hussan Tuylioglu and Hussein on Bachi, the three principals in the outrage of Hodoortchoor, were not arrested, he would be held personally responsible for their escape.

The Kaïmakam is sanguine that he can by this means apprehend them, as well as ten others who are also strongly suspected of having formed part of the band of Hodoortchoor.

But if, notwithstanding the energy displayed by the authorities in the present circumstance, the three individuals protected by Mahmud Aga escape arrest, his influence, which is already considered to be unbounded, will prevail over that of the Porte at Rizeh.

Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi's motive for not wishing that the Medjliss of Trebizond should be informed of the circumstance of the letter is, that he suspects Eyub Zade Ali Effendi, one of its members, to act on behalf of Mahmud Aga.

This Ali Effendi seems to be a very able man, but who does not always use his abilities in the right direction. It is said that the Porte has, some years ago, forbidden his being employed in Government offices, but it seems that the Pashas of Trebizond cannot dispense with his services.

In the meanwhile, the Medjliss here has decided to forward to Erzeroum for trial the twenty-six individuals now in the prisons of Rizeh, but under an escort of the troops sent to Ispir for this special case. Yussuf Pasha had already telegraphed more than once to the Commander of that corps to do so, but no answer having been returned, I advised him to apply to the Porte.

It seems that, since the arrival here of Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi, who had hitherto been represented by the inhabitants of Rizeh as a very honest functionary, an accusation of bribery has been lodged against him, but no one has come forward to substantiate the charge. This accusation may be a manœuvre of Mahmud Aga's party to get rid of him. Yussuf Pasha has taken this view of the case, and ordered him to return immediately to his post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—Hadji Ali Nihad Effendi departs this moment for Rizeh. He has been furnished by Yussuf Pasha with a letter addressed to the Cadi, in which the decision come to by the Medjliss of Trebizond to send the guilty parties to Erzeroum for trial is recorded. Strong orders are also given for the arrest of Dursun and Hassan Tuylioglu and of Hussein on Bachi; but no mention is made of the name of Mahmud Aga, to whom no other letter was written.

A. B.

No. 592.

Vice-Consul Biliotti to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 27.*)

(No. 162. Political.)
My Lord, *Trebizond, November 16, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Turkish corvette "Eibarn" sailed for Constantinople a week ago, having on board three battalions, or about 600 soldiers, arrived from Erzinghian.

Letters just received from the inland state that towards the end of October there were 20,000 Russian troops at Kars and 18,000 at Soghanli, and that fresh recruits were arriving daily.

The Turks had, on the contrary, received orders to send the Mustahfiz to their homes, which will considerably reduce the already small force in that quarter.

The last Turkish steamer from Constantinople has landed here 113 Turkish officers, who had been prisoners of war in Russia, and return now to join their corps in Anatolia.

It is confirmed that the Armenian immigrants have returned to Bayazid, but great distress exists at Alashgerd.

Wood is less scarce at Erzeroum, large quantities arriving daily from the Mamahotoon district.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 593.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 950.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 23, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that this evening, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I have communicated to M. Waddington a copy of a despatch to me, marked No. 778, and dated the 21st instant, in which your Lordship has given the answer of Her Majesty's Government to the French Circular proposing that the Powers should address a simultaneous and identic representation to the Porte on the Greek question.

I have &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 594.

Lord Lyons to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 960.)
My Lord, *Paris, November 26, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I have received from M. Callimaki Catargi, the Roumanian Agent here, and which contains a copy of a telegram giving the particulars of the arrangement come to between Russia and Roumania respecting the passage of Russian troops through the Dobrudscha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 594.

M. Callimaki-Catargi to Lord Lyons.

Paris, le 26 Novembre, 1878.

Milord,

CONNAISSANT le bienveillant intérêt que vous voulez bien porter aux affaires mon pays, je m'empresse de vous faire part du télégramme qui m'est parvenu ce matin de Bucarest. Le voici textuellement transcrit:—

"No. 16891. Le passage de nos troupes dans la Dobroudja se fera demain mardi. L'entente entre le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie et le Gouvernement Roumain a eu lieu par un échange de notes, portant la déclaration suivante: Les stipulations qui règlent aujourd'hui le passage de l'armée Russe à travers la Roumanie peuvent et doivent être aussi appliquées à la Dobroudja, dans celles de leurs dispositions qui ont trait aux Commandeurs des troupes Impériales, conformément à l'Article XXII du Traité de Berlin."

No. 595.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, November 26, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the annexed copy of a telegram from Commander Musgrave, of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice."

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 595.

Commander Musgrave to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

(Telegraphic.) *"Cockatrice," Galatz, November 26, 1878, 5 P.M.*

PRINCE arrived at Braila. Troops for the occupation of Dobrudscha commenced crossing Danube River this morning.

No. 596.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received November 27.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, November 26, 1878.*

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a letter from Rear-Admiral Sir Edmund Commerell, dated the 9th instant, which has been forwarded by the Commander-in-chief, inclosing a letter from Mr. Dussi, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rodosto, giving some information respecting the Russians in that neighbourhood.

It is requested these papers may be returned when done with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 596.

Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

Sir, *"Agincourt," at Artaki, November 9, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your information, the original (in French) of a letter I have received from Mr. Dussi, Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Rodosto, giving some information respecting the Russians in that neighbourhood, of a later date than that contained in my letter reporting my visit to the place on the 30th ultimo, to which I have attached a translation in English.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. COMMERELL.

Inclosure 2 in No. 596.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Rear-Admiral Sir E. Commerell.

Excellence, *Rodosto, le 5 Novembre*, 1878.

JE crois vous être agréable, Excellence, en vous informant que le jour de votre départ d'ici, vers 7 heures du soir, quatre officiers Russes, escortés de trois soldats, sont entrés dans la ville. Avis fut immédiatement porté à la police qui envoya une patrouille faire la ronde dans les environs où ils avaient pris pied. A l'aube, ils repartirent pour Muratly station du chemin de fer, sans que rien ait été fait pour chercher à connaître le but de leur venue.

Je suis à même aujourd'hui de vous dire que le nombre de troupes Russes qui se

trouvent en deçà d'Andrinople sur le parcours de Dimotika, Ouzun Kiepru, Lulé-Bourgas, et Kirk Klissia, s'élève à 70 bataillons.

D'après des avis officiels, l'ex-Gouverneur Russe de Malgara, actuellement Gouverneur d'Ouzun Kiepru, a envoyé un détachement de cavalerie à Balabankieui, village Turc du Département de Malgara.

Ces cavaliers enlevèrent tout le foin, orge, avoine, qu'ils purent trouver, des chariots, et prélevèrent un impôt de 10,000 piastres.

En outre, d'autres détachements envoyés aux villages Chrétiens de Coskieui, Sultan-kioui, et Hagikieui, du Département de Malgara, cinssèrent les troupes Turques qui s'y trouvaient et forcèrent les villageois à signer des pétitions demandant l'occupation Russe.

Ce même Gouverneur fit arrêter Jeudi dernier et conduire sous bonne escorte à Ouzun Kiepru, l'Evêque Grec de Kiescian (Monseigneur Lefko), qui se trouvait à Kalikala, village Chrétien d'Ouzun Kiepru, et qui est sous la juridiction du Diouse de Kiescian. La Sublime Porte et le Patriarcat furent de suite avisés.

Il y a trois jours le village Turc de Karagitrieui, Département de Hairabet, et situé sur les confins du Département d'Ouzun Kiepru, fut attaqué et pillé par une bande de Chrétiens armés, qui, employant leurs armes, obligèrent les habitants à prendre la fuite.

Je profite, &c.
(Signé) M. DUSSI.

No. 597.

Safvet Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Musurus Bey, November 27.)

Constantinople, le 26 Novembre, 1878.

(Télégraphique.)

REÇU télégramme Spécial No. 432.

Le Prince Labanoff insiste de nouveau sur la prompte conclusion du Traité de Paix définitif en nous faisant espérer le raccourcissement du délai de trois mois stipulé dans l'acte de San Stéfano pour l'évacuation complète des localités qui doivent être restituées à la Turquie. D'après le langage de l'Ambassadeur de Russie, l'évacuation en question paraît être subordonnée, contrairement aux déclarations faites par le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, à la conclusion du Traité dont il s'agit.

Je vous prie d'entretenir du nouveau de cette question Lord Salisbury, et de lui demander ce que nous devons faire en présence de cette nouvelle démarche de la Russie. Veuillez en même temps me faire savoir si sa Seigneurie a demandé au Comte Schouvaloff, qui est déjà arrivé à Londres, des explications sur la contradiction qui existe entre le langage du Prince Labanoff et les déclarations de M. de Giers. J'attends votre réponse jusqu'à Jeudi prochain.

No. 598.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 1032.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 26*, 1878.

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday Russian Ambassador's language here does not correspond with that of [? Schouvaloff]. Former informed Grand Vizier yesterday that the withdrawal of the Russian troops from territory outside of Eastern Roumelia entirely depended upon the execution of definitive Treaty, and that if this Treaty were concluded Russian army would be probably withdrawn within less than three months after its ratification. Count Wimpffen* said nothing about the surrender of Spuz and Podgoritza. Grand Vizier asked for a delay of three days to give his reply, which expires on Thursday.

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* *Sic* in cypher. Query Zichy.

No. 599.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 1033.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, November 26*, 1878.

FRENCH Ambassador is pressing Porte very strongly to issue at once Firman confirming recently-elected Chaldean Patriarch, whom the Vatican is unjustly and oppressively forcing on the Chaldeans of Mosul. I am afraid that the Porte will give way. Could not the French Government be induced to abstain from taking a step so contrary to principles of religious freedom until some fair arrangement is come to on the subject?

No. 600.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, November 26*, 1878.

PRINCE CHARLES of Roumania took to-day possession of the Dobrudscha by crossing with troops.

Yesterday, arrangement which I reported was completed by exchange of notes between Russian Minister and the Foreign Minister here, exactly as was mentioned in the statement of Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and proposed by Roumania ten days ago, when the Russian Government desisted from insisting on regular Convention.

I communicated to your Lordship that the matter had been settled.

No. 601.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(Telegraphic.) , *November 27*, 1878.

COMMISSION has definitively accepted the boundary proposed by me this day, by a majority of six to one against the Russian. The point of South Mangalia is 12,000 metres south of the village of Ilanlik.

Everything is most satisfactory.

Russian talks of having a [?] of Ambassadors to upset the work of Commission.

No. 602.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 27.)

(No. 66.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 27*, 1878.

TO-DAY Ottoman Commissioner laid Cretan Project, with following observations:—

(Extract.)

"By order of the Porte the Ottoman Commissioners have the honour to communicate to the Commission copy of an Imperial Firman which applies to the organization of Statute 868 for the Island of Crete the modifications required by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin. These modifications have been adopted after examination into the wishes of the population, as expressed in its name by a Council *ad hoc*."

Russian Commissioners then asked categorically and officially whether the Firman had or had not been promulgated; whether it was submitted for us to express opinion. Turks declared that they had no further instructions.

Other Commissioners having asked for explanations, I said that I was prepared to express an opinion on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, but not to raise a discussion unless demanded by the Porte, but that as the desire had been expressed by

others, perhaps the Turkish Commissioners would think it right to ask for instructions.

Prince Dondoukoff arrived here to-day.

No. 603.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 27, 1878, 11·55 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 1032, Count Schouvaloff's statement was quite distinct, and as he has so recently been with the Emperor, it is evident that Prince Labanoff is mistaken.

Advise Porte strongly to refuse signature till the matter is cleared up; there is either foul play, or Labanoff's instructions are so imperfect that his assurances are worth nothing.

Communicate with Labanoff yourself, and inform him what Schouvaloff said to me, as related in my telegram of Monday. I will telegraph again to-morrow, after seeing Schouvaloff.

No. 604.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 395.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 27, 1878.*

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 487, Confidential, of the 14th instant, reporting a conversation which you had with Count Maffei upon the question of the admission of an Italian member into the Egyptian Cabinet; and I have to express to you my approval of the language employed by your Excellency on that occasion, as reported in your despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 605.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 511. Secret and Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 25, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that an authorized source, sent to me by an excellent authority, has informed me that the Eastern Roumelian militia lately organized is marching towards Macedonia with the intention of stirring up insurrection, and effecting their union with Eastern Roumelia which would be hurtful to Greek element.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 606.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 513. Secret.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 29, 1878.*

IN order to carry out the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram of the 28th instant I have given to an authorized source a Memorandum, copy of which is inclosed, for communication to an excellent authority relative to the danger to

Hellenic interests which would result if the Bulgarian insurrection in Macedonia should be successful.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 606.

Memorandum communicated by Mr. Corbett to Authorized Source, October 29, 1878.

(Secret.)

HER Majesty's Government have learnt that Greek peasants are being induced to join Bulgarian insurrection in Macedonia.

Should insurrection be successful, certain result would be to transfer for ever Macedonia from Greek to Slav race.

Very important that Greek peasants should be warned.

No. 607.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 516. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Athens, October 30, 1878.*

I SPOKE to-day in general terms to the Minister for Foreign Affairs in the sense of your Lordship's telegrams of the 25th and 28th instant, relative to the danger to Hellenic interests in Macedonia caused by the Bulgarian revolt, and of the importance that the Greek inhabitants should be warned against the attempts supposed to be making by the Bulgarians to obtain their aid against the Mussulmans.

M. Delyanni assured me that the Government is quite aware of the danger to Greek interests of the advance of the Slavs in the direction of the Ægean Sea, and that instructions had been sent to the Greek Consuls in Thrace and Macedonia to discourage Greeks, as far as possible, from taking any part in the insurrection.

He further mentioned that money was advanced by the Greek Government to support Greek schools in those parts, with the object of preventing the absorption of the Greek by the Slav element.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 608.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 519. Secret.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 1, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that with reference to your Lordship's telegrams, dated the 25th and 28th ultimo respectively, the following is in substance the answer returned by excellent authority:—

"Has not been informed that Greek peasants of Macedonia had joined the Bulgarian insurrection, but will make inquiries as to report."

The same influence cannot be exercised by Greece on distant populations as if it were in possession of the territory allotted to Greece by Congress.

Influence of Greece was of greater importance before the late war, which has tended to alter equilibrium between Slavs and Greeks, as the former have become emancipated, and the latter remain the same as before. He thinks that the emancipated Slavs are a greater attraction to Greeks living near the Slav frontier than Hellenes, who are not able to defend them efficaciously enough against the tendency of Slav movements towards Ægean Sea, so that England would do better instead of threatening them with the loss of their nationality, which would certainly be against British interests, to protect more thoroughly the Greek element by forcing the Sublime Porte to yield without delay the territory accorded by Berlin Congress.

From latest reports Greeks of Macedonia, far from aiding Bulgarians, are treated

by them as enemies as they are by the Turks. One thing is certain, and that is, that the Greeks of Macedonia will never co-operate with Turks.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 609.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 520. Secret.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 1, 1878.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 519, marked Secret, of this day's date, I have the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum which an authorized source handed to me to-day on the part of an excellent authority. It contains the answer of the former to the two Memorandums which, as I informed your Lordship in my despatches Nos. 513 and 514 of the 27th and 29th ultimo respectively, I had communicated to him.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

Inclosure in No. 609.

Memorandum.

N'AVONS rien entendu que les paysans de la Macédoine s'unissent aux Bulgares pour faire une insurrection en Macédoine.

Prendrons des informations.

La Grèce, dans ses limites actuelles, ne peut exercer sur les populations éloignées cette influence efficace qu'elle pourrait exercer sur elles en se trouvant en possession du territoire lui concédé par le Congrès de Berlin.

L'influence de la Grèce sur les populations Helléniques était plus forte avant la guerre, qui a modifié complétement l'équilibre entre les deux nationalités Hellénique et Slave.

L'une est restée ce qu'elle était, et l'autre se trouve émancipée.

Par conséquent, les populations Helléniques près la nouvelle frontière Slave sont plus fortement attirées par les Slaves émancipés que par les Hellènes, qui ne sont pas en état aujourd'hui de les protéger efficacement contre les tendances des Slaves d'absorber ces populations pour arriver jusqu'à la Mer Egée, de sorte qu'au lieu de les menacer de la perte de leur nationalité, ce qui ne peut être pour sûr dans l'intérêt Anglais, l'Angleterre ferait mieux de protéger plus efficacement l'élément Hellénique, en obligeant la Turquie de céder au plus vite à la Grèce le territoire accordé par le Congrès.

P.S.—D'après les nouvelles récemment reçues, les Grecs de la Macédoine, bien loin de marcher d'accord avec les Bulgares, sont, au contraire, traités en ennemis et par ceux-ci et par les Turcs. Ce qu'il y a de certain, c'est que les Grecs de la Macédoine ne sauraient en aucun cas faire cause commune avec les Turcs.

No. 610.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 525. Secret.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 7, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that an excellent authority has informed me that he had this day received news from M. Gennadius to the effect that Her Majesty's Government would join other Powers in the representation about to be made by France with respect to the rectification of Greek frontier, although she considered the moment inopportune.

He further gave me to understand that his position, as always trusting on help

from Her Majesty's Government, had become very embarrassing, for England had refused to join in German representation, and now seemed rather unwillingly to join with France.

In the present state of things, how is excellent authority to continue to exhort Greece to trust in English protection?

He expressed to me his belief that Greek element would be crushed in Thrace and Macedonia without protection, which Greece could only give to it if strengthened by the territory which Berlin Congress had recommended should be ceded to her.

Russia strongly supported the Bulgarians, and Greece had no protector against them and Turks.

I have communicated the above to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 611.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 543.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 20, 1878.*

M. DELYANNI told me to-day that he had on several occasions lately expressed to Photiades Bey how desirable it was that a better understanding should exist between the Porte and Greece in view of the encroachments of the Slavs, the common enemy of the Mussulman and Greek populations. His Excellency, at the same time, had said that unless the desires of this country with regard to an increase of territory were complied with joint action between the two countries was impossible, but that, if the frontier of Greece were extended, it would enable this country to act with greater effect on the Greek population of the adjacent territory, and, in alliance with the Porte, resist the encroachments of the Slavs and their approach to the Ægean Sea.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 612.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 544.)

My Lord, *Athens, November 20, 1878.*

THE Greek Minister has reported to his Government that a Council of Ministers was held at the Porte on the 15th instant, when the question of the extension of the Greek frontier was under consideration, and that the Grand Vizier, after the Council, submitted some proposal to the Sultan, the nature of which has not yet been communicated to this Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 613.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 72. Political.)

My Lord, *Bosna-Serai, November 8, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that an address to the Emperor of Austria has been prepared by the Mussulmans of this town, and is to be presented to-day to General Philippovich. The address begins by representing the miserable condition to which the country and people were reduced under Ottoman rule, and expressing gratitude to Austria for coming to their deliverance. It then makes professions of loyalty to His Majesty, and expresses the aversion of the Mussulman population to being ever again brought under the authority of the Porte, their desire to become Austrian subjects, and their readiness even to fight, if necessary, on the side of Austria for the defence of Bosnia. The Orthodox Christians, I am told, are not much pleased at this step taken by the Mussulmans, and endeavoured to dissuade them from signing the address.

The object of the address is evidently to pave the way to annexation. The project did not originate with the Mussulmans, but with the Austrians themselves, although the former appear to have made no difficulty about attaching their signatures to the address. It cannot, however, be said to be a true exposition of their sentiments, but they have so long been accustomed under the Turkish régime to the concoction of meaningless addresses and petitions that they do not perhaps attribute to them the same value and importance that other nations do, and are less scrupulous about affixing their signatures to documents with the contents of which they are unacquainted or do not entirely agree. To say that the Mussulmans, or even the Christians, of Bosnia are at present content with Austrian rule would hardly be correct. They have renounced, I firmly believe, all idea of further armed opposition, indeed the disarmament of the people has rendered the success of any future rising impossible, but they still cherish the hope that some unforeseen circumstance, some fresh complications in the East, may again free the country from Austrian dominion.

Two or three days ago a deputation of Christians and Mussulmans left Mostar for Vienna to manifest the loyalty of the people of the Herzegovina towards the Emperor of Austria, and also to express their contentment with the Commander of the Forces, General Jovanovic, and to beg that he may be permanently appointed Governor of the Herzegovina. The deputation consisted of eighteen members, representing the various kaimakamliks or districts of the province. I now hear that a similar deputation will also shortly leave this town for Vienna to express the sentiments of loyalty of the people of Bosnia.

The three most active leaders of the hostile movement against Austria, namely, the Mufti of Taslidza, Ismail Bey, and Ahmet Effendi Nako, are said to be now at Ipek, in Albania. The Mufti of Taslidza was very badly received by the people on his return to his native town. They said he was the chief cause of all the ruin and misery that had fallen on the country, which is certainly true, as he originated the rising in the Possavina, and his first successes against the division of Count Szapary, which, of course, were grossly exaggerated, encouraged the Bosniacs, who had been disheartened by their reverses at Taica, Zebée and Bilalavac, to further resistance and to the defence of the town of Serajevo. The Mufti, annoyed at his reception, fired his own house and quitted the place. There seems to be a diversity of opinion at Taslidza. Part of the inhabitants are in favour of immediate surrender should the Austrians advance, while others talk of resistance. Mussulmans here, with whom I have conversed, seem to be of opinion that if the Albanians do not interfere the occupation of the district of Novi-Bazar will, if decided on, be effected without much difficulty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 614.

Acting Consul Freeman to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 73. Political.) *Bosna-Serai, November 14, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that Colonel Kaulbars, of the Russian army, with three other Russian officers, arrived here a few days ago by way of the Herzegovina, having been previously in Montenegro.

I have not been able to ascertain the motive of their journey, but I understand that they are likely to remain here some time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWD. B. FREEMAN.

No. 615.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 9. Political.) *Sophia, November 11, 1878.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Imperial Russian Commissary, Prince Dondoukoff, leaves this place to-day for Livadia, whither he has been summoned by a

telegram from the Emperor, who is himself, it is said, shortly about to return to St. Petersburgh.

The Prince, who will visit Philippopolis and Adrianople on his way to Livadia, announces that he will be back at Sophia within a fortnight.

General Gröwer will carry on the administration during his absence; but the Diplomatic Secretary, M. Josopovitch, a civilian, is designated as referee for whatever may regard the Imperial Ottoman Commissary, Pertev Effendi, who has just arrived, or the delegates *ad hoc*, of whom, however, I am as yet the sole representative here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 616.

Consul-General Palgrave to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 10. Political.)

My Lord, *Sophia, November 12, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that a considerable massacre of Christian villagers of both sexes is stated to have occurred about a fortnight since within the sub-district of Malesh, belonging to the Kaza of Strumnicha, near the east centre of Macedonia, to the right of the great Strymon Valley. The district was a perfectly quiet one; and the inhabitants had taken no part in the insurrection to the west of them. The perpetrators of the massacre were, it is stated, Bashi-Bazouks, belonging to the Turkish troops in the neighbourhood; some regulars are also said to have taken part, but this latter circumstance is doubtful. The lowest number of victims, men and women, is given at fifty persons. Many refugees have arrived here from the district mentioned, where further outrages are expected.

The sources from which this information is derived are, I regret to state, perfectly trustworthy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. GIFFORD PALGRAVE.

No. 617.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 113.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopoli, November 13, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of a letter addressed to me by Prince Tzeretelew, and of my reply, on the subject of Fatma.

I also inclose a copy of a report made by M. Amiable, the French advocate attached to the Ottoman Commissioners, who made inquiries on the spot.

I must say, on the other hand, one of the medical men alluded to by Prince Tzeretelew informed me that there was no contusion on Ismail's body. The disease under which he suffered is one that any rough handling might render fatal, but Doctor Vlados could, of course, not say whether his death had or had not been precipitated by ill-treatment.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

P.S.—I have again seen M. Amiable, who tells me that his statement is founded on careful inquiry and cross-examination, and that he is perfectly convinced of the truthfulness of the story. Prince Tzeretelew called the husband Ali, and I fell into the same error in my answer. The name of Fatma's father was Ali, of her husband Ismail.

H. D. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 617.

Prince Tzeretelew to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Cher Collègue, *Philippopoli, le 12 Novembre*, 1878.

L'INTÉRÊT que vous avez témoigné à la veuve Fatma m'a engagé à prendre quelques renseignements. Je viens de recevoir un acte signé par les médecins, Dr. Wlados et Dr. Rachko Petron, qui constatent, après autopsie, que la mort d'Ali a été causé par une maladie chronique du cœur (*degeneratio musculorum cordis*) et que les extrémités portaient les symptômes d'hydropisie (*anasarca*).

Croyant que ces détails peuvent vous intéresser, je vous les communique.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) TZERETELEW.

P.S.—Fatma est une femme publique.

T.

Inclosure 2 in No. 617.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to Prince Tzeretelew.

Cher Prince et Collègue, *Philippopoli, le 13 Novembre*, 1878.

JE vous remercie des renseignements que vous me donnez au sujet de la veuve Fatma et de feu son mari, et je crois que vous ne niez aucunement les actes auxquels se sont livrés les trois membres de la police Bulgare.

La maladie dont souffrait Ali (*degeneratio musculorum cordis*) est une de celles dont le résultat est précipité par des faits de ce genre.

Quant aux mœurs de Fatma, je ne puis pas reconnaître que trois hommes aient le droit de violer, même une femme publique, en présence du cadavre de son mari.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 617.

Report by M. Amiable.

Dans la nuit du Samedi, 26, au Dimanche, 27 Octobre (nouveau stylo), trois gendarmes Bulgares envahissaient la petite maison occupée par le Musulman Ismaïl, et par sa femme Fatma, dans le faubourg de Philippopoli, appelé Kutchuk Yaka, qui se trouve sur la rive gauche de la Maritza, et qui est réuni à la ville par un pont. Les trois Bulgares enjoignirent à Ismaïl de leur livrer sa femme. Sur son refus, ils l'entraînèrent hors de la maison, le renversèrent sur le sol, et le frappèrent de leurs pieds chaussés de bottes jusqu'à ce qu'il cessât de se débattre et de crier. Cela fait, ils rentrèrent dans la maison, bâillonnèrent la femme, lui déchirèrent ses vêtements, et la violèrent tous les trois successivement. Les habitants des maisons voisines, tous Musulmans, virent de leurs fenêtres les violences exercées sur le mari, et entendirent les cris des deux victimes. Terrifiés, ils n'osèrent ni porter secours, ni aller en demander.

Avant la fin de la nuit, Ismaïl était mort par suite des coups qu'il avait reçus.

Le Dimanche matin Fatma se présenta au poste de police du faubourg, demandant à parler au Chef, qui est un officier Russe. Elle fut chassée à coups de fouet. Elle voulut aller en ville pour porter plainte; on lui empêcha de passer le pont.

Ce même jour, les voisins voulurent procéder aux funérailles d'Ismaïl; la police leur enjoignit d'y surseoir.

Le cadavre resta trois jours dans la petite maison. Le troisième jour, trois médecins, accompagnés de deux officiers Russes, vinrent l'examiner. Ils reconnurent que la mort avait été causée par les coups de talons de botte. Ils ouvrirent le corps, et en retirèrent le poumon, qu'ils emportèrent.

Il n'y eut pas d'enquête judiciaire. Les trois Bulgares, auteurs du meurtre et du viol, qui sont attachés au poste de police du faubourg, ne furent pas emprisonnés, et continuèrent leur service comme auparavant.

Ayant appris l'arrivée des Commissaires Ottomans, Fatma traversa la rivière à gué pour aller leur demander justice. Une pétition contenant sa plainte a été déposée par les Commissaires Ottomans sur le bureau de la Commission Européenne dans la séance du 4 Novembre.

Les dires de Fatma ont été contrôlés, sur le lieu lui-même du double crime, par les déclarations des voisins.

Ismaïl était originaire de Tatar-Bazardjik, et âgé de vingt ans. Il était journalier, travaillant aux rivières pendant la saison, et le reste du temps comme portefaix. Fatma est de Philippopoli; elle a 19 ans. Ils étaient marié depuis trois ans; ils avaient eu un enfant, qui est mort pendant l'hiver dernier. Lors de l'approche des Russes, ils avaient quitté Philippopoli, et s'étaient réfugiés à Constantinople. Ils étaient venus à Philippopoli un mois avant le crime.

No. 618.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 114.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November 14*, 1878.

I BEG to transmit a copy of a letter I received this morning in answer to the letter I addressed to General Stolipine, copy of which was sent to your Lordship in my despatch No. 110 of the 12th instant.

I also inclose a copy of my reply.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 618.

General Stolipine to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Honourable Sir, *Philippopolis, November* $\frac{14}{26}$, 1878.

HAVING received your letter from the 12th November with the inclosed letter of Dr. Cullen, describing in such moving colours the condition of the Turkish fugitives in the Rhodope Balkans, I hold it as my duty to express to you my sincerest thanks for the straightforward way in which you have addressed me in this case.

The suffering of human creatures of whatever nationality they are is near to my heart, and I am always happy to help them with all the means in my power.

There is no doubt, if you are kind enough to put yourself at the head of any charity assistance on behalf of the Rhodope poor refugees, that my family and I will give a cordial response to your charitable call, which will here without doubt meet also with the greatest interest from all classes of the Russian society; but excepting the assistance of private people, very small compared with the immensity of the misfortunes. You are probably, honourable sir, wishing to know the opinion of the Russian authority concerning the subject in which you are interested; in the quality of General-Governor of East Roumelia, I find it my duty to give you my opinion with the frankness necessary in a matter concerning the welfare of thousands of sufferers.

Without contradicting the sad condition of the Turkish fugitives in the Rhodopes, and not disputing the opinion of the respected Dr. Cullen upon the subject, I cannot, however, refrain from declaring that the responsibility of their present miserable condition cannot in any case fall on the Russian Government.

Foreseeing the sad destiny of the fugitives, I have at the beginning of the year during my residence in Philippopolis as military Governor several times addressed them with proclamations, in which I advised them to return to their habitations, assuring them by the word of the representant of the Russian authority of the security of themselves, their wives, children, and belongings from any unlegal attack.

My entreatings have, I regret to say, proved all in vain, as vain as the entreaties of the Turkish Commissioners who were sent to the Rhodopes upon my insistance, and the sad conclusion of whose mission must be, honourable sir, not unknown to you.

And so the judgment of history must fall on none of the European Governments for the condition of the Rhodope refugees.

The responsibility falls on the band of ruthless agitators and adventurers, who,

having St. Clair at their head, lifted revolutions, and, as was reported to me, hindered the fugitives under pain of death from returning to their peaceful firesides, making them take arms at the time they ought to have cultivated their fields.

The strength of St. Clair's influence is seen in this, that since his departure the insurrection in a great measures was appeased, and would have been quite extinguished if his définitif disappearance was insured.

It lies also in the interest of people like St. Clair and his colleagues to spread rumours of insurrections in the districts of Samacow and Kustendil. These districts do not enter in the bounds of my several governments; still, however, I know by what I have heard from the Imperial Commissioner in Bulgaria, Prince Dondoukoff, that this insurrection is but an invention which had for foundation the customary skirmish in Rhodope Balkans between the Bashi-Bazouks and the peaceful aborigines whom they pillage.

These disorders may only be stopped by the firm, straightforward intervention of the Turkish Government, on whose duty also lies, I think, the help to the unhappy fugitives.

If the Turkish Government has not for this enough moral and pecuniary means, how utterly insufficient should be those means of helping the sufferers which could be derived from my personal charity, that of my family and colleagues!

Notwithstanding, I am personally happy to help the fugitives by all means, as being contented with the pay I have from the Russian Government as commander of corps, I decline the salary which might be appointed to me by the Finance Commission as General Governor of East Roumelia.

This sum is wholly presented by me into the disposition of the Commission for the distribution of help as to Rhodope fugitives, equally to the Bulgarians and Greeks, inhabitants of East Roumelia, ruined by the war, of whose utterly deplorable condition I have been to-day informed by the Colonel Nossovitch whom I sent for this purpose.

By the words of M. Nossovitch, the condition of the ruined localities in the districts of Eski-Zaghra, Yeni-Zaghra, and Kyzanlik is no less deplorable than the state of the fugitives of the Rhodope Balkans.

The sight of the villages uninhabited and often turned into heaps of cinders can be, as he says, compared to the last days of Pompei.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STOLIPINE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 618.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to General Stolipine.

Philippopolis, November 14, 1878.

Excellency,

I HAVE to thank your Excellency for your very kind letter.

I can assure your Excellency most truthfully that I had no afterthought in addressing you on the subject, nor any desire to make use of Dr. Cullen's letter in a political sense.

It would not become me to put myself at the head of a charitable movement in this country, but the lamentable reports that come on all hands would render it desirable that some steps should be taken to relieve the sufferers. I think your Excellency will consider it well that I should be able to have precise details of the actual condition of these unhappy people, and I therefore propose to ask Mr. Wallace to visit the spot, in order that I may obtain a report on which Lord Donoughmore and myself might invite subscriptions in England.

Again thanking your Excellency for the kindness and courtesy with which you received my communication, I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 619.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 115.) [B.B.]

Philippopolis, November 14, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose a petition delivered to me to-day by a deputation of Bulgarian widows from Carlovo.

They were much moved, and narrated in a very touching manner the wrongs they had suffered at the hands of the Turks. They declared that, feeble as they were they would take arms rather than allow Turkish garrisons to be replaced in the province.

One lady, the widow of a medical man, told me that her husband had been driven mad by the doings of the Turks, placed in a madhouse, and taken thence and hanged.

There could be no doubt of the genuine feeling of these poor women. They were very respectably dressed, and one of them who spoke did so with great earnestness.

I told them that their sufferings had raised all the sympathies of England, and that the object of Europe in naming this Commission was to establish a state of things in which such deeds as those they complained of could not recur.

They begged me to go to Carlovo myself and examine into the truth of their allegations. I answered that I could not leave Philippopolis, but that I would request Mr. Walpole to visit Carlovo and to listen to any representations they might make.

They were introduced by a Bulgarian gentleman named Lilloff, who spoke French and Bulgarian; but as his French was imperfect I cannot be certain that my words were always correctly interpreted, as unfortunately I am not yet supplied with a Bulgarian translator.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 619.

Petition.

(Traduction du Bulgare.)

A Messieurs les Commissaires Européens de la Bulgarie du Sud.

Miséricordieux Messieurs,

LA nouvelle que vous, Plénipotentiaires des Grandes Puissances, êtes arrivés dans Plovdiv pour organiser l'administration de la Bulgarie du Sud, conformément au Traité de Berlin, est parvenue jusqu'à nous, et nous a tirées de l'abattement où nous avaient plongées des malheurs et des souffrances inouïs. Nous profitons de cette circonstance pour venir vous exposer, miséricordieux Messieurs, les atrocités que nous avons subies.

Les Soussignées 804 veuves de Carlovo avons eu le malheur de perdre l'année passée d'une manière horrible nos maris, nos frères, et nos fils, et jusqu'à présent personne n'a demandé compte aux assassins de leurs crimes. Nous avons toujours considéré l'Europe civilisée comme un juge commun, comme une généreuse protectrice des peuples faibles et esclaves, et nous avons été toujours persuadées quelle a le désir et le pouvoir de punir tous ceux qui commettent des crimes dans le sein de la famille Européenne et de protéger les faibles et les persécutés.

Nous basant sur ces sentiments nous vous prions, MM. les Commissaires, de vouloir bien demander au Sultan et à ses Ministres pourquoi permirent-ils à leurs soldats et à la population Turque d'assassiner, de hacher, et de prendre nos maris, nos frères, et nos fils, et de nous enlever tout ce que nous possédions jusqu'au dernier torchon et jusqu'au dernier tesson? Pourquoi ils leur permirent de souiller nos églises de démolir nos écoles, et de commettre des crimes que la honte nous empêche de mentionner, et tout cela devant les yeux du Caïmacam même de notre ville, Assan Effendi, et en présence d'un grand nombre de Pachas militaires et civils qui passaient et repassaient par notre ville, en présence aussi de deux charitables étrangers de l'Occident, qui étaient venus nous distribuer du riz et du sel, et dont nous n'avons pu apprendre ni les noms ni la nationalité?

Affolées par la peur et la douleur nous courions après chaque Pacha et chaque étranger, et nous suppliions leur protection et leur miséricorde; nous leur montrions les cadavres de nos chers maris et fils, qui se putréfiaient dans les rues; nous leur montrions nos chers enfants affamés et devenus fous d'horreur, et nous les priions de faire cesser l'affreux carnage, qui ne discontinuait pas, et la furie des Bachi-Bozouks qui ravageaient la ville. Mais, helas! personne ne nous écoutait, ils avaient tous juré notre extermination! Nous eûmes recours aux deux étrangers qui distribuaient du riz et du sel, nous les avons supplié comme des anges sauveurs; nous leur disions: "Aidez-nous, sauvez-nous, empêchez les Turcs et les Circassiens de nous massacrer; ayez pitié de nous, soyez miséricordieux envers ces orphelins." Mais, helas! nos paroles se perdaient comme dans le désert. Ces étrangers partirent un jour et emportèrent avec

eux notre dernière espérance. Les militaires continuèrent à piller, les Circassiens à massacrer, l'autorité à emprisonner et pendre, jour et nuit, à chaque instant, et cela dura depuis le 19 Juillet jusqu'au 27 Décembre, jour d'arrivée des troupes Russes dans notre ville. Cinq mois entiers nous avons passé dans les souffrances les plus affreuses, cachées avec nos enfants au fond des caves ou sous les toits, tourmentées par la chaleur, la soif, la faim, la peur, le froid, le souvenir de nos maris, frères, et fils assassinés, et la crainte d'être découvertes et de voir nos enfants massacrés devant nos propres yeux.

Les souffrances que nous avons endurées nous ne les oublierons jamais; encore aujourd'hui le seul souvenir de ces jours néfastes nous fait frémir et trembler comme si les soldats Turcs sont encore à nos portes.

Demandez, Messieurs, au Sultan pourquoi il a toléré ces massacres; demandez au Juges Turcs de vous présenter les actes des Tribunaux, qui prouvent la culpabilité de nos maris et nos frères pendus. Vous devez faire cela; vous devez vous rendre compte du degré de moralité de ce Gouvernement auquel vous voulez soumettre de nouveau notre cher pays.

Nous demandons justice au nom de nos chers parents froidement exterminés; nous demandons justice au nom de ces orphelins dont les pères furent pendus, dont la fortune fut enlevée, et qui sont réduits dans la plus affreuse misère; et cette justice c'est de vous, MM. les Commissaires, que nous l'attendons; vous êtes les représentants de l'Europe civilisée, vous êtes, vous mêmes, la fleur de cette Europe, et nous sommes persuadées que vous ne laisserez pas impunies de telles barbaries. Si vous voulez des preuves ayez la bonté de faire appeler un des notables Turcs de Carlovo, le Mutevelly Rachid Effendi, qui se trouve à présent à Philippopoli, pour qu'il déclare lui-même les crimes de nos pauvres maris qui ont été pendus.

On parle, mais nous ne croyons pas, que l'Europe Chrétienne aurait résolu de nous remettre de nouveau sous l'autorité Turque, que nous avons vu tuer, massacrer, piller, viendront de nouveau souiller le sol qu'ils ont trempé du sang de nos frères. Oh, cela n'arrivera jamais! Nous ne souffrirons jamais au milieu de nous ces buveurs de sang, et nous vous le jurons qu'ils n'entreront en Bulgarie qu'en passant sur les cadavres des veuves de Carlovo; la pensée seule qu'ils sont maîtres nous fait préférer la mort.

Nous vous supplions, MM. les Commissaires, de vouloir bien prendre en considération les désirs que nous venons de vous exposer, d'en informer vos Gouvernements, et d'avoir l'assurance, &c.

(Suivent les signatures.)

No. 620.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 116.) [B.B.]

Philippopolis, November 15, 1878.

My Lord,

THE deputation of Bulgarian widows from Carlovo made a very painful impression on all the Commissioners. Their grief and emotion were evidently genuine and most touching. They seemed to belong to the upper Bourgeoisie, and they are naturally led to point out as the remedy for the wrongs they have endured the measures prescribed by the political leaders of the Bulgarians.

The inclosed very indifferent French translation of an article from the "Maritza" is an evidence of the means taken to excite the people.

The points urged with the greatest vehemence against the provisions of the Treaty are those in Articles XV and XVI, referring to the defence of the frontiers by Turkish troops, and the conditions under which those forces may be brought into the province.

At a meeting of the sub-Commission which met yesterday, consisting of Messrs. de Ring, de Braunschweig, and myself, to settle chapter 1, viz.: "Droit public et privilèges de la province," one of the most difficult questions which occupied us was the military rights of the Sultan.

The Turkish Commissioners have privately expressed an opinion that the conscription for the Turkish army should still be kept up in the province, notwithstanding the existence of the militia. I therefore drafted for the next sitting of the sub-Commission an article, not as a proposal of mine, but as the result of our discussion, and a proposition that may have some chance of passing the Commission.

"Le service dans la milice est obligatoire. Comme par l'Article XV du Traité

l'ordre intérieur est établi par une milice, le service dans ce dernier corps est l'équivalent du service militaire de l'Empire. En cas de guerre la milice, sur les ordres du Sultan, pourrait être appelée à renforcer l'armée Impériale dans des proportions de contingent des autres provinces. Les taxes d'exemption sont en conséquence abolies."

I borrowed much of the idea embodied in this Article from some words of Prince Bismarck's, quoted by the German Commissioner, and to be found in the fourth Protocol of the Congress of Berlin, page 49, line 48:

"The militia, in time of peace, will be a body destined to preserve the public tranquillity; it might in time of war reinforce the army of the Sultan."

In the course of our private séance the question was also raised whether the province was to be represented in case of the resuscitation of the Midhat Constitution.

M. de Braunschweig spoke against this. His idea was this, that the Treaty proposed to establish in Eastern Roumelia nothing more nor less than what had been established in Bulgaria, with the exceptions laid down in the Treaty.

I could not admit this view, which is quite excluded by the text of Article XIII.

Besides this, the representation in the Constitution was a privilege and not a disability. The province was autonomous, but in Imperial and international matters, diplomacy, Treaties, war or peace, she would have no voice except by means of the Imperial Constitution. Baron de Ring supported my views.

To complete the history of yesterday, I should mention that on my return home I found some poor Turks from the neighbourhood of Tchollouk, who represented that some Turks of their village had the night before been attacked by Bulgarians; five men had been tied up and beaten, and the wife of one had been violated.

They wanted to be allowed to come and live in the town with their wives and children, who were starving.

Mr. Wallace and Mr. Walpole, who were present at the time, said they would call at the village to-day, and give their wives and children money.

They asked to be allowed to return to their village in the company of these gentlemen, but this was impossible, as the latter had to reach Carlovo the same night, and it would have formed an inconvenient precedent. The poor men said it was useless to give their wives and children money, as they would be immediately deprived of it by the Bulgarians.

I recommended them to present a petition to the Governor-General, saying that they had been advised to come to me, but I had told them to petition his Excellency direct.

Mr. Wallace and Mr. Walpole left this morning for a tour of inquiry, on which Mr. Walpole will furnish me with a Report.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 620.

Extract from the "Maritza."

(Traduction.)

Plovdiv, le 30 Octobre, 1878.

QUELQUES-UNES des Puissances ayant voulu se mêler dans les arrangements de notre population de la péninsule des Balkans, disant qu'elles feraient tout avec humanité et se sont réunies il y a quelque temps au Congrès de Berlin, d'où le peuple Bulgare attendait une couronne délicieuse pour ses souffrances; là des Puissances ont pu s'arranger pour nous en fournir une d'épines, une coiffure de tourments pour le peuple Bulgare, et elles nous ont envoyé une Commission pour nous poser cette coiffure à la tête, pour qu'encore une fois elles puissent voir saigner notre tête, et qu'une seconde fois nous devenions des instruments de dérision pour nos voisins les Turcs, les Grecs, les Serbes, les Valaes, et les Zinguanés, et nous dirons tout cela et nous ne cesserons de le dire à toute l'Europe jalouse. La Commission dont nous avons parlé est arrivée il y a deux semaines et elle a voulu commencer immédiatement ses travaux.

Mais aussitôt ils ont entendu une voix qui leur disait, je n'accepte pas les arrangements du Congrès de Berlin, je suis décidé de mourir plutôt que de me séparer de mes frères les Bulgares au-delà des Balkans.

Dans cette intention, l'acte du bouleversement a paru au milieu de la population Bulgare, contre la Commission Européenne, dont les histoires et toutes les humanités avaient engourdi le peuple Bulgare.

Mais maintenant nous voyons qu'elle est venue pour notre séparation, et nous réunirons toutes nos forces patriotiques pour recouvrer notre liberté et l'honneur du nom Bulgare devant tous les peuples de l'Europe et devant tout le monde.

Mais la clarté Bulgare commence à paraître dans toute la Bulgarie et ne laissera pas passer ainsi les affaires. Ils savaient bien qu'avant ils étaient dans les fers; mais que maintenant ils sont en liberté et que tout leur va bien; ils savent aussi que les convives non-désirés veulent les mettre de nouveau sous la puissance et le joug des Turcs. Nous irons en avant la poitrine ouverte et nous dirons, "Venez, bêtes féroces, mangez-nous plutôt que de vivre sous votre joug."

Mes frères, le temps est donc arrivé; réunissons nos forces et nos esprits pour recouvrer notre liberté, et nous ferons connaître à toute l'Europe que le peuple Bulgare sait comment se guider, et qu'il ne laissera pas en arrière ses décisions, du moment qu'il a eu des hommes assez intelligents pour en fournir à tous les Gouvernements soit en Bulgarie soit dans celle du sud, après tous les malheurs qu'ils ont eu à souffrir sous les Turcs. Que l'histoire aura à raconter que la Bulgarie après tant de souffrances a pu fournir et former une armée de 40,000 hommes dans très-peu de temps qui, avec son progrès, se fit admirer de tout le monde, et que sera cette armée dans le feu même, nous avons raison, mes frères, de nous vanter de nos progrès et de nous préparer à l'avenir.

Pensant aux profonds malheurs que l'Europe nous prépare, il faut que nous poursuivions nos actes pour protester et rejeter les malheurs qu'on nous prépare, et nous sentirons qu'il faudra nous réveiller, nous Bulgares, en deçà des Balkans. Nous voyons que nos frères de la Macédoine, avec une organisation admirable, avec une armée de 20,000 hommes bien organisée, avec leur artillerie et leur cavalerie bien dirigées, ont réussi à menacer les Turcs à leur enlever toute la contrée, et nous voyons aussi l'organisation d'une intrigue Anglo-Turque à Constantinople pour envoyer une armée en Macedoine exterminer la population, ainsi qu'il l'avait fait dans le temps à la pauvre Bulgarie. Mais dans cette occasion nous croyons que les Puissances de l'Europe ne permettront qu'une telle armée fut envoyée en Macédoine. Mais si l'Europe ne proteste pas à tout cela, la Russie saura bien montrer à toutes les Puissances leur humanité et saura aussi éloigner les intérêts Anglais si défendus par Lord Beaconsfield.

Le Comte Andrassy, qui voudrait aussi s'arranger pour descendre au nord de la Macédoine avec l'idée de surprendre ce pays pour effacer sa honte au sujet des Bosniaques Turcs, pense-t-il, disons-nous, faire avec les Bulgares ce qu'il a fait à l'égard des Bosniaques; mais si l'Autriche accomplissait cette œuvre elle ne serait pas comptée au nombre des Grandes Puissances; même, disons-nous, ses armées Slaves ne voudraient pas combattre leurs frères; dans ce cas elle serait aussi attaquée par les Monténégrins, les Serbes, et les Albanais; et elle aurait aussi des divisions entr'elle. Nous croyons aussi que le Comte Andrassy se contentera de garder ce qu'il a occupé et retirer ses armées.

Quant à vous, Macédoniens, nous prierons Dieu, Lui qui fait tout, de vous donner la force et le courage pour vaincre vos ennemis les Turcs, et pour recouvrer votre liberté.

No. 621.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 117.) [B.B.]

Philippopolis, November 18, 1878.

My Lord,

MY despatch No. 116 and my telegram No. 58 will have informed your Lordship of what took place at the sitting of Saturday.

I pared down a proposition I originally made to proportions that I thought would be sustained by all the members of the Commission, and when put to the vote it was carried by six to one, the Russian alone voting in the negative. It was rejected only by the absence of unanimity required for all decisions of the Commission.

The case was, however, too gross to be passed over, and even the members of the Commission most inclined to walk with Russia felt it could not be overlooked.

Mr. Calvert had, at my request, communicated the facts to General Hübsch, Governor of Philippopolis, who sent him what was, in my opinion, a very improper answer. In this letter the Governor stated that, these Turks not being British subjects, the Vice-Consul was not entitled to make any representations in the matter.

I therefore advised Mr. Calvert to write and inform the General that he had been instructed by the Ambassador that orders had been given by the Russian Government to the Governors of the provinces occupied to listen to representations made by British Consular Agents of acts of harsh treatment inflicted on Turks, and that until the receipt of further instructions it would be his duty to continue to make such communications.

I inclose copies of this correspondence.

I cannot exaggerate the sufferings of the Turkish population in this province. There is not a Turkish house standing in this town, except those inhabited by Bulgarians and Russians. General Stolipine seems afraid of his popularity, and will not take the steps necessary to secure these unhappy people from molestation. What their fate will be in the winter, when the cold comes on, it is impossible to foresee, and all our representations are met with cynical indifference.

Whatever may have been the misdeeds of the Turks towards Bulgarians, these can offer no pretext for the systematic retribution now carried on under the eyes of authorities, supported by a large armed force, and perfectly capable of repressing the violence they witness in silence.

The worst feature is the part taken by the Russians themselves in destroying the houses. Acts of personal violence, however deplorable, cannot always be charged against the authorities, but the wholesale destruction of houses cannot be carried on without superior sanction.

Inclosed is a copy of the resolution I proposed.

The village at which the outrages took place in is spelt in Kiepert's map Tchulukkeui.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 621.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Baron Hübsch Grossthal.

(Particulière.)

M. le Gouverneur, *Philippopoli, le 16 Novembre, 1878.*

JE vous écris, conformément au désir que vient de m'exprimer Sir H. Wolff, pour recommander à votre bienveillante attention le cas de certains villageois Turcs de Tcholluk qui ont été ces jours-ci les victimes de divers mauvais traitements de la part des Bulgares de Stlozovo, et qui vous ont ce matin adressé une pétition à ce sujet.

Ces pauvres gens avaient été d'abord amenés chez Sir H. Wolff. Ils lui ont raconté leurs griefs et lui ont montré un des leurs qui avait été blessé par des coups qu'il avait reçus des assaillants Bulgares.

Sir H. Wolff leur avait répondu qu'ils auraient dû s'adresser d'abord à votre Excellence et leur conseiller de vous écrire la pétition qu'ils vous ont présentée ce matin.

Comme Mr. Wallace, le correspondant du "Times," partait hier pour Carlova, Sir H. Wolff le pria de s'arrêter au village de Tcholluk, qui est sur la route de Carlova, et de s'enquérir de la vérité des faits rapportés par les pétitionnaires. Mr. Wallace écrit de Tcholluk en date d'hier après-midi:—

"Nous avons vérifié l'histoire et l'avons trouvée vraie. Toutes les maisons Turques sont détruites. Ce qu'ils (les Turques) désirent est de s'en aller, parce qu'ils sont en danger de leur vie. Il y a ici quinze familles Turques, pour la plupart des femmes et des enfants. Un Tchorbadji Bulgare les empêche de partir."

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 621.

Baron Hübsch Grossthal to Vice-Consul Calvert.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{4}{16}$ *Novembre*, 1878.

M. le Consul,

JE vous prie d'agréer mes remercîments pour les informations que vous voulez bien me donner sur les mauvais traitements qu'ont eu à subir quelques villageois Turcs de la part de leurs voisins Bulgares du village de Debolluk. Je suis toutefois étonné de ce que les Turcs établis dans le Gouvernement de Philippopolis se permettent de porter leurs plaintes à d'autres qu'à celui qui seul a le droit de faire des enquêtes et de faire juger les coupables.

Je vous prie, M. le Consul, d'être persuadé que je recevrai toujours avec le plus vif intérêt les plaintes des sujets de Sa Majesté la Reine d'Angleterre, quand vous voudrez me les adresser, mais laissez-moi vous faire observer que les Turcs d'ici sont soumis à la loi commune dès qu'ils sont établis en Roumélie et que je ne saurai d'aucune façon admettre l'ingérence de qui que ce soit dans les affaires de l'administration qui m'est confiée.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) Baron HÜBSCH GROSSTHAL.

Inclosure 3 in No. 621.

Vice-Consul Calvert to Baron Hübsch Grossthal.

Philippopoli, le 16 *Novembre*, 1878.

M. le Gouverneur,

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de votre réponse à ma lettre d'aujourd'hui et je m'empresse de vous répéter que quand les malheureux Turcs qui ont subi les outrages dont j'ai eu l'honneur de vous entretenir, se sont présentés aux Commissaires de Sa Majesté Britannique ils ont reçu d'eux le conseil de s'adresser à votre Excellence. Si je vous ai communiqué l'état de ces pauvres gens, je l'ai fait d'après les instructions de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique à Constantinople qui m'a prévenu que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale de Russie avait promis au Gouvernement Britannique que les Gouverneurs Russes des provinces occupées de la Turquie accepteraient de la part des Agents Consulaires Anglais accrédités auprès d'eux des renseignements tendant à établir les mauvais traitements dont la population Turque serait victime et que les Consuls Anglais croiraient devoir signaler dans leurs rapports.

J'ai déjà fait mention de ces instructions, et jusqu'à ce que je reçoive des instructions contraires de l'Ambassadeur, je croirai de mon devoir de continuer à soumettre à votre Excellence les faits de cette nature qui viendraient à ma connaissance.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) F. R. J. CALVERT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 621.

Motion.

LA Commission invite son Président à signaler à son Excellence le Général Stolipine, dans un entretien particulier, les faits relatés dans la séance de ce jour par le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique, en donnant à M. le Gouverneur-Général l'assurance que dans le cas où il croirait devoir venir en aide aux habitants Turcs du village de Tcholluk, la Commission s'empresserait d'examiner la possibilité d'assigner les fonds nécessaires.

No. 622.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 118.) [B.B.]

My Lord,

Philippopolis, November 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copies of Protocol No. 7.

In page 22 of this document, paragraph 2, your Lordship will see the words of the first Commissioner of Russia, which imply a recognition of the superiority of the local administration to the Commission.

I did not perceive at the time the bearing of his words, but objected to them at the reading of the Protocol at the next meeting.

I referred to this circumstance in my despatch No. 102 of the 10th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 622.

Protocole No. 7.—Séance du $\frac{23 \text{ Octobre}}{4 \text{ Novembre}}$, 1878 (9 *Zilcadé*, 1295), *à la maison de la Commission Européenne, à Philippopoli.*

Présidence de M. de BRAUNSCHWEIG.

Étaient présents :

Pour l'Allemagne—
M. de Braunschweig.

Pour l'Autriche-Hongrie—
M. de Kallay.

Pour la France—
Le Baron de Ring,
M. de Coutouly.

Pour la Grande-Bretagne—
Sir Henry Drummond Wolff,
Le Comte de Donoughmore.

Pour l'Italie—
Le Chevalier Vernoni.

Pour la Russie—
Le Colonel Schepelew,
Le Prince Tzeretelew.

Pour la Turquie—
Son Excellence Assim Pacha,
Abro Effendi.

LA séance est ouverte à 1 heure.

Le Protocole de la dernière séance lu par M. Rozet est adopté.

Le Président annonce à l'Assemblée qu'il a informé M. Adolphe Schmidt de sa nomination et lui a fait savoir en même temps que le Comité des Finances était chargé de s'entendre avec lui sur les conditions auxquelles il accepterait les fonctions de Directeur-Général.

Le Comte de Donoughmore, au nom de la sous-Commission des Pétitions, donne lecture de la Communication suivante qu'il dépose sur le bureau :

"La sous-Commission des Pétitions a l'honneur d'annoncer qu'elle a examiné celles qui lui ont été soumises jusqu'à ce jour, et se propose de déposer son Rapport à la prochaine séance de la Commission."

L'ordre du jour appelle la discussion sur le Règlement Organique.

M. de Kallay prend la parole en ces termes :

"Vous m'avez chargé, Messieurs, de préparer un programme pour l'élaboration de la Loi Organique de la Roumélie Orientale.

"Le travail que j'ai l'honneur de soumettre aujourd'hui à vos délibérations est loin d'être complet. La Commission elle-même, au cours de nos discussions, lui donnera l'étendue qu'il comporte.

"A mon avis il est nécessaire de partager notre tâche en deux parties bien distinctes. Il faut d'abord poser les principes généraux dont l'énoncé n'entrera pas dans le texte même de la loi, mais servira de base à notre œuvre législative. Les Articles du Traité de Berlin se rapportant à la Roumélie Orientale dont la stricte observation est obligatoire pour la Commission, doivent être notre guide essentiel. D'autres textes encore serviront de point de départ à nos travaux mais sans nous lier dans la même mesure: ce sont le Protocole de la huitième séance de la Conférence de Constantinople et les différentes lois sur les vilayets.

"Nous devrons en même temps tenir compte de l'état actuel des choses en Roumélie Orientale et nous efforcer d'introduire dans cette province des institutions libérales répondant à la situation du pays et aux exigences de la civilisation Européenne.

"La seconde partie de notre tâche sera la division des matières que nous sommes appelés à discuter. Dans le travail que je soumets à la Commission je me suis appliqué à préparer cette division conformément au système adopté dans tous les pays civilisés. J'ai sans doute omis nombre de questions importantes et je prie instamment mes collègues de combler les lacunes de mon projet. Je suis prêt à adhérer à toutes les amplifications qu'on voudrait y apporter, mais je tiens à déclarer d'avance que je ne crois pas pouvoir consentir à une diminution ou à une restriction de mon programme."

M. Rozet donne lecture du programme présenté par M. de Kallay pour servir à l'élaboration de la Loi Organique:—

Programme présenté par M. de Kallay pour servir à l'Elaboration de la Loi Organique.

"La discussion générale devra se diviser en deux parties, une première, théorique, sur les principes qui devront guider le travail de la Commission, la seconde, pratique, dans laquelle nous fixerons l'ordre des matières que le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale devra embrasser.

"Les principes d'après lesquels je voudrais que le travail de la Commission s'accomplît sont les suivants:—

"Ire Partie.—*Principes Généraux.*

"A. Les dispositions du Traité de Berlin (Articles XIII à XXII et LXII), devront trouver leur stricte application dans le travail de la Commission; qui s'interdit d'avance d'en provoquer le changement, et s'impose la tâche de les avoir sans cesse présentes à l'esprit pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique de la province.

"B. Conformément à l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, les lois sur les vilayets ainsi que les propositions faits dans la huitième séance de la Conférence de Constantinople devront servir de point de départ au travail de la Commission, sans pourtant imposer à celle-ci l'obligation de s'y tenir strictement. La Commission se croit au contraire en droit de les modifier dans toutes leurs dispositions qui ne répondraient pas selon elle à l'état ou aux besoins du pays.

"C. La Commission s'efforcera de donner à la Roumélie Orientale une organisation répondant, autant que les circonstances le permettent, à l'esprit qui a dicté les institutions des pays de l'Europe occidentale, afin que la province puisse s'associer au mouvement de la civilisation moderne et participer à ses bienfaits.

"En conséquence, la Commission s'appliquera à assurer au pays de la manière la plus large:

"1. La sûreté des personnes et des biens;

"2. Une justice indépendante, prompte, et impartiale;

"3. Un système d'impôt et une administration financière, conformes aux données de la science économique moderne;

"4. Des institutions de crédit, ainsi qu'un régime industriel et commercial propre à développer la prospérité publique et individuelle;

"5. Des voies de communication perfectionnées;

"6. La liberté et la parfaite égalité des cultes, avec une réglementation équitable des rapports entre les différentes Communautés religieuses et l'Etat;

"7. Un système d'éducation publique qui respecte les droits et les intérêts des différentes communautés religieuses, et garantisse en même temps l'essor intellectuel de la population;

"8. Une réglementation libérale des questions de presse;

"9. Une juste participation de toutes les classes de la population à la vie publique, ainsi qu'une représentation populaire adaptée aux besoins du pays;

"10. Un pouvoir exécutif fortement constitué, mais néanmoins soumis à un contrôle efficace;

"11. Une administration civile qui concilie dans une mesure équitable les intérêts de l'Etat avec ceux des particuliers.

"D. Considérant toutefois que les institutions politiques d'un Etat de l'occident, si parfaites qu'elles puissent être, ne répondraient ni aux besoins, ni au développement historique, ni aux habitudes de la population, qu'elles ne seraient sans doute pas même comprises par celle-ci et courraient par conséquent risque de demeurer lettre-morte à bien des égards, la Commission n'entend introduire telles quelles en Roumélie Orientale les institutions d'aucune nation occidentale, mais appliquera ses efforts à réaliser le programme développé sous la rubrique C, en créant une œuvre qui réponde aux besoins indigènes et à l'état des esprits.

"E. Le Congrès de Berlin s'est donné pour mission de créer en Orient un équilibre stable en conciliant autant que possible les intérêts et les prétentions contraires des diverses nationalités qui l'habitent et des cultes qui y sont professés. S'inspirant de son exemple, la Commission, en tenant compte des droits légitimes de la majorité, veillera cependant à ce que ceux de la minorité soient également sauvegardés.

"IIe Partie.—*Statut Organique de la Province.*

"Division des matériaux que ce Statut devra embrasser:—

"I. Droit public et priviléges de la province.
"II. Droit des citoyens.
"III. Droits et attributions du Gouverneur-Général:—
  (*a.*) Vis-à-vis de l'Empire;
  (*b.*) Vis-à-vis de la province.
"IV. Pouvoir exécutif:—
  (*a.*) Division des services publics et définition de leur compétence;
  (*b.*) Nomination et révocation des fonctionnaires.
"V. Représentation du peuple:—
  (*a.*) Droits et attributions de cette représentation;
  (*b.*) Sa compétence;
  (*c.*) Mode de nomination de ses membres.
"VI. Finances:—
  (*a.*) Impôts directs;
  (*b.*) Contributions indirectes;
  (*c.*) Mines;
  (*d.*) Eaux et forêts;
  (*e.*) Douanes et octrois;
  (*f.*) Monopoles;
  (*g.*) Voies de communication, travaux publics;
  (*h.*) Postes et télégraphes;
  (*i.*) Agriculture, commerce, et industrie;
  (*j.*) Institutions de crédit.
"VII. Administration civile:—
  (*a.*) Division administrative de la province;
  (*b.*) Enumération des différentes autorités administratives;
  (*c.*) Leur compétence;
  (*d.*) Mode de leur nomination;
  (*e.*) Autorités appelées à juger les questions contentieuses.
"VIII. Justice:—
  (*a.*) Détermination des instances;
  (*b.*) Division judiciaire de la province;
  (*c.*) Nombre, composition, et compétence des Tribunaux;
  (*d.*) Mode de nomination des juges;
  (*e.*) Ministère public;
  (*f.*) Exécution des jugements.

"IX. Cultes:—
(*a.*) Relations des communautés religieuses avec l'Empire et avec la province;
(*b.*) Relations entre les diverses communautés religieuses;
(*c.*) Droits et devoirs politiques des ecclésiastiques et des corporations religieuses;
(*d.*) Police des cultes.

"X. Instruction publique:—
(*a.*) Principes généraux;
(*b.*) Ecoles provinciales et écoles relevant de l'autorité ecclésiastique;
(*c.*) Privilèges des unes et des autres;
(*d.*) Surveillance de l'Etat;
(*e.*) Question de l'instruction obligatoire et de la gratuité des écoles;
(*f.*) Nomination du corps enseignant en tant qu'il dépend de la province.

"XI. Organisation de la milice.
"XII. Organisation de la police et de la gendarmerie.
"XIII. Organisation de la propriété foncière (cadastre, &c.).
"XIV. Règlement concernant les droits et devoirs des employés, leur avancement, leur retraite, et l'exercice du pouvoir disciplinaire auquel ils sont soumis."

Après cette lecture *le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie*, qui avait été chargé de prendre connaissance des divers documents déposés sur le bureau à la dernière séance, donne à la Réunion son opinion sur ces pièces.

Les règlements provisoires soumis à la Commission par les Délégués de Russie ont trait à deux questions seulement: (1) organisation des Conseils Administratifs des départements et arrondissements; (2) organisation de la police et de la gendarmerie. Ils pourront être utilement consultés et même être pris en sérieuse considération quand la Commission s'occupera des questions qu'ils traitent. M. de Kallay attire spécialement l'attention de ses collègues sur les règlements provisoires concernant la police et la gendarmerie.

Quant au projet de Règlement Organique présenté par les Commissaires Ottomans, bien qu'il semble vouloir embrasser la future organisation toute entière, il ne paraît pas à M. de Kallay assez complet pour servir de base de discussion. Il ne considère néanmoins comme un point d'appui et le recommande à ce titre à la Commission.

Le Président exprime au Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie la reconnaissance de l'Assemblée. Il constate que tous les Délégués partagent l'opinion de M. de Kallay sur les matériaux déposés, et propose ensuite à la Réunion de commencer la discussion du programme, en acceptant en principe la division en deux parties recommandée par M. de Kallay.

La Commission adopte.

Le Président donne lecture des deux premiers alinéas du programme:

"La discussion générale devra se diviser en deux parties: une première, théorique, sur les principes qui devront guider ce travail de la Commission; la seconde, pratique, dans laquelle nous fixerons l'ordre des matières que le Statut Organique de la Roumélie Orientale devra embrasser.

"Les principes d'après lesquels je voudrais que le travail de la Commission s'accomplît sont les suivants:"

La Commission accepte ces deux alinéas à l'unanimité.

Le Président lit le paragraphe A de la première partie.

"1re Partie.—*Principes Généraux.*

"A. Les dispositions du Traité de Berlin (Articles XIII à XXII et LXII), devront trouver leur stricte application dans le travail de la Commission, qui s'interdit d'avance d'en provoquer le changement, et s'impose la tâche de les avoir sans cesse présentes à l'esprit pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique de la province."

Le Prince Tzeretelew accepte le point de vue sur l'application des dispositions du Traité de Berlin contenu dans ce paragraphe, mais ne se rend pas compte de la portée des mots: "Qui interdit d'avance d'en provoquer le changement."

M. de Kallay dit que la Commission n'est pas autorisée à provoquer des changements aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin: "Peut-être," ajoute-t-il, "trouverons-nous un jour que tel ou tel Article du dit Traité n'est pas exécutable; il nous sera loisible alors de nous adresser individuellement à nos Gouvernements pour les prier d'aviser; mais la Commission comme telle ne pourrait pas sans outrepasser son mandat provoquer officiellement un changement au dit Traité."

Le Prince Tzeretelew croit, comme le Délégué d'Autriche-Hongrie, que la Commission n'a pas le droit de changer les dispositions du Traité de Berlin. Mais il est d'avis que si la Commission arrive à la conviction qu'une stipulation est inexécutable elle peut en référer collectivement aux Gouvernements. Le Baron de Ring n'a-t-il pas, en parlant dans une séance précédente de la compétence de la Commission, revendiqué pour celle-ci "le droit d'instruire ce genre de procès en laissant aux Cabinets le soin de les juger:"

"Les Représentants des Puissances réunis à Berlin n'ont pas," continue le Prince Tzeretelew, "tracé l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale; ils ne nous ont donné qu'une base d'organisation en nous laissant la faculté de la développer. Si au cours de nos travaux surgit la nécessité de modifier l'application d'un Article du Traité, c'est la Commission qui, à mon avis, devra saisir les Gouvernements. Les Puissances n'ont pas de meilleure base, pour s'entendre sur un changement demandé par les circonstances, que l'opinion collective de la Commission.

"Une fois déjà on a dérogé aux stipulations du Traité de Berlin retardant l'époque de la réunion de la Commission. La nécessité d'autres changements peut se présenter. Mon collègue d'Autriche-Hongrie admet le droit pour les Délégués d'en référer individuellement à leurs Gouvernements qui, après un échange d'idées, pourraient les autoriser à agir en conséquence. Je ne vois pas pourquoi l'Assemblée en tant que Commission ne pourra pas en faire autant, si tous ses membres étaient unanimes à en reconnaître la nécessité. Je crois inutile de nous lier par une phrase du genre de celle que renferme le projet de M. de Kallay, et je demande en conséquence l'omission des mots: 'qui interdit d'avance d'en provoquer le changement.'"

M. de Kallay maintient que le prétendu changement dont a parlé le Prince Tzeretelew n'était qu'une interprétation des Articles du Traité de Berlin: "Je ne songeais pas, dit-il, à cette interprétation en rédigeant les lignes en question et n'avais en vue que le texte du Traité relatif à notre mandat. Je continue à nier que la Commission ait le droit de provoquer un changement ou même une modification dans la teneur du dit Traité."

Le Baron de Ring trouve la thèse soutenue par le Prince Tzeretelew dangereuse. De même que M. de Kallay, il n'admet pas que la Commission puisse s'ériger en juge du Traité de Berlin et provoquer une modification du texte de ce Traité. Si tous les membres de la Commission arrivent à la conviction qu'une clause concernant la Roumélie Orientale est inexécutable, ils donneront leur avis motivé à leurs Gouvernements respectifs, mais ils ne les mettront pas en demeure par un acte collectif et public. Une telle manière de procéder serait contraire aux usages diplomatiques et constituerait inévitablement un excès de pouvoir.

Le Prince Tzeretelew fait remarquer qu'il ne songeait pas à revendiquer pour la Commission la faculté de provoquer de changements dans le texte du Traité de Berlin.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff dit que si la Commission, après le débat qui vient d'avoir lieu, omettait la phrase du programme qui a soulevé des difficultés, elle indiquerait son intention de s'arroger le droit de discuter le texte des Articles du Traité de Berlin: or, la Commission doit se borner à les exécuter.

M. Vernoni ne croit pas non plus que la Commission ait le droit de provoquer des changements dans le texte du Traité de Berlin. D'après lui la phrase du projet contre lequel a parlé le Prince Tzeretelew pourrait même être omise sans inconvénient, car il est absolument évident que la Commission ne peut rien entreprendre de contraire aux stipulations du Traité. Mais le mot provoqué paraissant avoir été mal interprété par certains Délégués, il dépose l'amendement suivant, qui lui semble acceptable pour tout le monde:

"*Amendement.*

"Au lieu des mots: 'qui s'interdit d'avance d'en provoquer le changement,' mettre ceux-ci: 'qui s'interdit d'avance de proposer des changements dans le texte du dit Traité.'"

Les Commissaires Ottomans pensent qu'après le débat qui vient d'avoir lieu, il vaudrait mieux ne pas omettre le membre de phrase discuté; mais il acceptent la variante du Délégué d'Italie.

L'amendement de M. Vernoni mis aux voix obtient unanimité.

La Commission décide en outre que le membre de phrase suivant du même Article A: "et s'impose la tâche de les avoir sans cesse présentes à l'esprit." . . . . . sera modifié comme suit: "et s'impose la tâche d'avoir les Articles susmentionnés sans cesse présents à l'esprit."

L'Article A définitivement adopté se trouvera en conséquence rédigé ainsi:

"A. Les dispositions du Traité de Berlin (Articles XIII à XXII et LXII), devront trouver leur stricte application dans le travail de la Commission, qui s'interdit d'avance de proposer des changements dans le texte du dit Traité, et s'impose la tâche d'avoir les Articles susmentionnés sans cesse présents à l'esprit pour l'élaboration du Statut Organique de la province."

Le Président lit le paragraphe B de la première partie:—

"B. Conformément à l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, les lois sur les vilayets, ainsi que les propositions faites dans la huitième séance de la Conférence de Constantinople, devront servir de point de départ au travail de la Commission, sans pourtant imposer à celle-ci l'obligation de s'y tenir strictement. La Commission se croit au contraire en droit de les modifier dans toutes leurs dispositions qui ne répondraient pas selon elle à l'état ou aux besoins du pays."

La Commission accepte ce paragraphe à l'unanimité.

Le Président donne lecture du premier alinéa du paragraphe C:—

"C. La Commission s'efforcera de donner à la Roumélie Orientale une organisation répondant, autant que les circonstances le permettent, à l'esprit qui a dicté les institutions des pays de l'Europe occidentale, afin que la province puisse s'associer au mouvement de la civilisation moderne et participer à ses bienfaits."

La Commission adopte à l'unanimité.

Le Président lit la seconde partie du paragraphe C:—

"En conséquence, la Commission s'appliquera à assurer au pays de la manière la plus large:—

"1. La sûreté des personnes et des biens;

"2. Une justice indépendante, prompte et impartiale;

"3. Un système d'impôt et une administration financière conformes aux données de la science économique moderne;

"4. Des institutions de crédit, ainsi qu'un régime industriel et commercial propre à développer la prospérité publique et individuelle;

"5. Des voies de communication perfectionnées;

"6. La liberté et la parfaite égalité des cultes avec une réglementation équitable des rapports entre les différentes Communautés religieuses et l'Etat;

"7. Un système d'éducation publique qui respecte les droits et les intérêts des différentes Communautés religieuses et garantisse en même temps l'essor intellectuel de la population;

"8. Une réglementation libérale des questions de presse;

"9. Une juste participation de toutes les classes de la population à la vie publique, ainsi qu'une représentation populaire, adaptée aux besoins du pays;

"10. Un pouvoir exécutif forcément constitué, mais néanmoins soumis à un contrôle efficace;

"11. Une administration civile qui concilie dans une mesure équitable les intérêts de l'Etat avec ceux des particuliers."

Abro Effendi demande une explication sur le sixième point qui a trait aux rapports entre les Communautés religieuses et l'Etat; il voudrait savoir si M. de Kallay entend parler de l'Empire Ottoman ou de la province.

Le Commissaire d'Autriche-Hongrie répond qu'il a employé le mot "Etat" dans un sens général: ce terme signifie l'autorité politique par opposition à l'autorité religieuse.

Les Commissaires Ottomans, satisfaits de cette explication, acceptent la seconde partie du paragraphe C en réservant pourtant les droits de Sa Majesté le Sultan dans la future province.

Le Prince Tzeretelew voudrait connaître la portée de la réserve faite par les Délégués de Turquie, et demande si elle implique qu'on pourra revenir sur l'adoption de la seconde partie du paragraphe C.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff croit la réserve des Commissaires Ottomans sans utilité pratique, car le programme qu'on discute débute en se référant aux Articles XIII à

XXII et LXII du Traité de Berlin qui établissent d'une manière absolue "que la province reste sous l'autorité politique et militaire directe de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan."

M. de Kallay fait remarquer que l'on délibère simplement sur un programme de travaux, que ce programme mentionne les Articles du Traité qui sauvegardent les droits de Sa Majesté le Sultan, et qu'en somme ce n'est que dans le cas où la Commission adopterait ultérieurement dans son travail définitif une décision lésant ces droits qu'il serait indiqué de faire des réserves.

Les Commissaires de Turquie en présence des explications fournies qui paraissent avoir la même valeur que leur réserve, acceptent purement et simplement la seconde partie du paragraphe C.

Aucun autre Délégué ne faisant d'opposition, la seconde partie du paragraphe C est adoptée par la Commission.

Le Président donne lecture des paragraphes D et E.

"D. Considérant toutefois que les institutions politiques d'un Etat de l'occident, si parfaites qu'elles puissent être, ne répondraient ni aux besoins, ni au développement historique, ni aux habitudes de la population, qu'elles ne seraient sans doute pas même comprises par celle-ci et courraient par conséquent risque de demeurer lettre-morte à bien des égards, la Commission n'entend introduire telles quelles en Roumélie Orientale les institutions d'aucune nation occidentale, mais appliquera ses efforts à réaliser le programme développé sous la rubrique C, en créant une œuvre qui réponde aux besoins indigènes à l'état des esprits.

"E. Le Congrès de Berlin s'est donné pour mission de créer en Orient un équilibre stable en conciliant autant que possible des intérêts et les prétentions contraires des diverses nationalités qui l'habitent et des cultes qui y sont professés. S'inspirant de son exemple, la Commission, en tenant compte des droits légitimes de la majorité, veillera cependant à ce que ceux de la minorité soient également sauvegardés."

La Commission adopte ces deux paragraphes à l'unanimité.

Le Président, en exécution de l'accord intervenu le 2 Novembre à la sixième séance entre tous les Commissaires, interrompt à ce moment le débat sur le projet de M. de Kallay, et prie l'Assemblée de passer à la discussion des autres matières mises à l'ordre du jour: "L'ordre du jour," dit-il, "appelle le dépôt d'un Rapport du Comité des Finances sur les conditions auxquelles M. Schmidt se chargerait des fonctions de Directeur-Général des Finances de la Roumélie Orientale."

M. de Coutouly dépose ce Rapport et, sur l'autorisation du Président, en donne lecture:

"*Rapport.*

"Messieurs,

"Le Comité des Finances a eu hier avec M. Schmidt une première entrevue officielle. Nous lui avons d'abord demandé en votre nom à quelles conditions il acceptait le poste pour lequel vous l'avez désigné par l'acclamation dans votre dernière séance.

"Après avoir exprimé dans les termes les plus chaleureux sa gratitude pour la marque de haute confiance que vous venez de lui donner, M. Schmidt nous a répondu qu'il serait trop heureux d'accepter, sans même les examiner, les conditions que vous jugeriez convenable de lui dicter, sa seule ambition étant de se montrer digne de l'honneur qui lui a été fait par la Commission Européenne.

"Sur notre demande expresse, M. Schmidt a bien voulu toutefois nous renseigner sur la situation qui lui était faite par la Banque Impériale Ottomane, situation à laquelle votre vote d'avant-hier l'oblige à renoncer, sinon pour toujours, du moins temporairement, et sans qu'il soit possible de prévoir quand il pourra la reprendre. Pour entrer au service de la Commission Européenne M. Schmidt, en effet, ne demande pas un congé au Directeur de la Banque, mais simplement la promesse qu'au moment où votre administration provisoire sera remplacée par l'administration définitive, il pourra rentrer, s'il le désire, dans le poste que vous lui avez fait quitter.

"Ces renseignements obtenus, il a été facile au Comité des Finances de s'entendre au sujet d'une proposition que nous allons avoir l'honneur de vous soumettre à la suite de ce Rapport. Pour la formuler il nous a suffi, d'une part, de considérer d'abord que la situation offerte par la Commission à son mandataire ne saurait être inférieure à celle occupée par celui-ci dans la Banque Impériale Ottomane, et ensuite que l'entrée en fonctions de M. Schmidt entraînerait nécessairement des frais d'installation; d'autre part, que des raisons bien connues vous conseillent la plus stricte économie.

"Après avoir arrêté les termes de cette proposition, le Comité des Finances a cru

devoir étudier avec M. Schmidt la composition du service central dont il aurait immédiatement besoin pour entrer en fonctions. M. Schmidt nous a répondu qu'il lui paraissait sage de se contenter au début du strict nécessaire en fait de personnel, et que pour ce motif il se bornerait à nous demander de lui adjoindre un secrétaire, un drogman, un chef comptable, deux comptables, et trois correspondants. D'après ses calculs, la somme des traitements de ces huit employés pourrait s'élever à environ 275 livres Turques par mois.

"Pour des raisons d'économie que vous apprécierez, M. Schmidt propose en outre de charger du mouvement matériel des fonds l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane établie à Philippopoli. Les comptes de caisse seraient tenus dans notre bureau de comptabilité, la succursale de la Banque n'étant que le dépositaire des espèces.

"Le Comité des Finances approuve en principe cette proposition de M. Schmidt, mais comme vous ne nous avez conféré des pleins pouvoirs que pour nommer des employés et pour surveiller les services financiers, nous allons avoir l'honneur de la soumettre à votre vote, en prenant simplement la liberté de vous faire observer que dans le cas où vous la repousseriez, les frais généraux d'installation seraient considérablement augmentés, et que nous serions forcés d'ajouter un personnel spécial de caisse aux huit employés dont il vient d'être question.

"Les mêmes considérations d'économie, qui ont suggéré à M. Schmidt l'idée de confier le mouvement matériel des fonds à la Banque Impériale Ottomane, lui font dire qu'il n'est pas indispensable au début de constituer un bureau spécial de contrôle. C'est le Directeur-Général lui-même qui exercerait temporairement, avec l'assistance de son secrétaire, les fonctions de chef du service de contrôle. Il est d'ailleurs bien entendu que le Comité des Finances n'hésitera jamais à fournir de nouveaux employés au Directeur-Général, soit pour le contrôle, soit pour les autres services, à mesure que les besoins de l'administration se révéleront.

"Vers la fin de notre réunion M. Schmidt a exprimé le désir que le Comité, en faisant ses premières nominations, désignât au moins deux employés de nationalité Bulgare pour le service central: l'un dans le bureau de la comptabilité, l'autre dans le bureau de la correspondance. Le Comité tiendra compte de ce vœu.

"Enfin M. Schmidt a énoncé l'opinion, et nous avons admis avec lui, que les bureaux du service central de l'administration des finances pourraient et devraient être installés dans la partie du konak de Philippopoli qui était autrefois affectée à des bureaux de même nature. Nous avons en conséquence résolu de vous proposer d'inviter notre Président à bien vouloir faire les démarches nécessaires pour obtenir que cette partie du konak soit mise à la disposition de la Direction Générale des Finances."

Après avoir donné lecture de ce document, *M. de Contouly* dépose sur le bureau les trois propositions suivantes, que le Comité des Finances prie la Commission de vouloir bien examiner et voter d'urgence:

"*Première Proposition.*

"Le Comité propose à la Commission d'allouer au Directeur-Général des Finances un traitement de 100 livres Turques par mois, sauf à lui accorder plus tard une indemnité d'installation s'élevant à une centaine de livres environ, si le dit Comité croyait devoir la demander.

"*Deuxième Proposition.*

"Le Comité propose à la Commission de décider que jusqu'à nouvel ordre l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane établie à Philippopoli pourra être chargée du mouvement matériel des fonds par la Direction Générale des Finances, laquelle tiendra elle-même les comptes de caisse dans ses propres bureaux, la Banque n'étant que le dépositaire des espèces.

"*Troisième Proposition.*

"Le Comité propose à la Commission d'inviter son Président à bien vouloir faire auprès de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général Civil et Militaire les démarches nécessaires pour obtenir sans retard l'installation des bureaux du service central de l'administration des finances dans la partie du konak de Philippopoli autrefois affectée à des bureaux de même nature."

Le Président fait observer que la première de ces trois propositions est appelée par l'ordre du jour puisqu'elle contient les conclusions mêmes du Rapport. Pour se conformer au désir du Comité des Finances il consulte l'Assemblée sur l'urgence des deux autres.

M. de Contouly annonce à cette occasion que le Comité des Finances se propose jusqu'à ce que la nouvelle administration financière soit complétement installée, de demander l'urgence pour chacune des motions qu'il croira devoir présenter.

Après avoir accueilli cette information par des marques d'assentiment, l'Assemblée vote l'urgence et passe à l'examen de la première proposition ainsi conçue:

"Le Comité propose à la Commission d'allouer au Directeur Général des Finances un traitement de 100 livres Turques par mois, sauf à lui accorder plus tard une indemnité d'installation s'élevant à une centaine de livres environ si le dit Comité croyait devoir la demander."

Elle est acceptée sans débat.

Le Président lit la deuxième proposition rédigée comme suit:—

"Le Comité propose à la Commission de décider que jusqu'à nouvel ordre l'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane établie à Philippopoli pourra être chargée du mouvement matériel des fonds par la Direction Générale des Finances, laquelle tiendra elle-même les comptes de caisse dans ses propres bureaux, la banque n'étant que le dépositaire des espèces."

Les Commissaire Russes demandent s'il résultera de la mise en pratique de ce projet que la Banque Impériale Ottomane deviendra le caissier central de l'administration financière.

M. de Contouly répond négativement:—"Les comptes de caisse," dit-il, "devant être tenus, d'après notre projet, par la Direction Générale dans ses propres bureaux, et la succursale de la banque n'étant chargée que du dépôt des espèces, lesquelles seront encaissées ou livrées par elle sur l'ordre de M. Schmidt, il est clair que la caisse restera absolument sous la dépendance de notre administration financière. C'est uniquement pour des raisons d'économie et pour gagner du temps au début que le Comité, sur l'avis de M. Schmidt, a cru devoir proposer cet arrangement."

Le Deuxième Commissaire de Russie accepte le projet du Comité à la condition qu'il produise une économie véritable. Il s'enquiert des conditions auxquelles la banque se chargerait de l'encaissement des sommes, et demande si cet établissement aura le droit d'utiliser pour ses opérations l'argent déposé.

M. de Kallay déclare que lui aussi adhérera au projet, s'il lui est démontré que les frais occasionnés par l'établissement d'une caisse spéciale grèveront le budget plus que le tant pour cent exigé par la Banque Ottomane.

M. de Contouly, répondant à ses collègues de Russie et d'Autriche-Hongrie, dit que toute opération faite avec les fonds de la province sera nécessairement interdite à la Banque Impériale Ottomane. Il ajoute que, du reste, il s'agit d'une disposition purement provisoire, ainsi que cela ressort du texte même de la proposition; et il conclut en déclarant que le Comité est prêt à introduire dans son projet une modification qui dissipera toute inquiétude.

Il soumet aux Commissaires l'amendement suivant:—

"L'agence de la Banque Impériale Ottomane établie à Philippopoli pourra, si elle offre des conditions plus avantageuses que celles résultant de l'établissement d'une caisse spéciale, être chargée jusqu'à nouvel ordre du mouvement matériel des fonds, la Direction Générale tenant les comptes de caisse dans ses propres bureaux, et l'agence de la banque n'étant que le dépositaire des espèces."

La deuxième proposition du Comité ainsi modifiée est adoptée.

Avant de soumettre au vote la troisième proposition du Comité des Finances, *le Président* demande à l'Assemblée de discuter le Projet de Résolution présenté à la dernière séance, et qui se trouve à l'ordre du jour: "Il serait bon," dit-il, "de ne faire des démarches auprès des autorités civile et militaire pour l'installation du service financier central qu'après avoir informé ces autorités de l'entrée en fonctions de notre Administration des Finances."

La Commission ayant accepté cette interversion dans l'ordre du jour, *le Président* donne lecture du projet de résolution dont s'agit.

"*Projet de Résolution.*

"La Commission invite son Président à bien vouloir notifier à M. le Gouverneur-Général Civil et Militaire de Roumélie Orientale la nomination du Directeur-Général

des Finances; et à prier son Excellence d'informer officiellement de ce fait les Chefs de l'Administration financière actuellement en fonctions dans la province, en leur enjoignant :—

"1. De reconnaître le dit Directeur-Général comme le Chef provisoire de tous les services financiers de la Roumélie Orientale.

"2. De lui remettre sans délai la caisse ainsi que les archives de l'Administration qu'il est chargé de diriger.

"3. Et enfin de lui prêter leur concours pour l'accomplissement de sa tâche pendant la période de transition.

"La Commission invite, en outre, son Président à prier son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général Civile et Militaire de porter à la connaissance des Administrations civile, judiciaire, et militaire, et de la population toute entière, par tous les moyens en usage dans la province pour les publications officielles :—

"1. Le texte de la résolution par laquelle, dans la séance du 17 Octobre dernier, la Commission Européenne s'est directement saisie de la gestion des finances de la Roumélie Orientale, conformément à l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

"2. La formation d'un Comité des Finances chargé de pourvoir à tous les emplois financiers autres que celui de Directeur-Général, et de prendre connaissance de tous les actes de l'Administration financière, laquelle restera placée sous sa surveillance et sous son contrôle.

"La nomination du Directeur-Général et son entrée en fonctions."

Le Colonel Schepelew constate que les Commissaires de Russie n'ont, quant au fond, aucune objection à faire à ce projet :—

"J'y signalerai pourtant," dit-il, "deux passages qui pourraient être retranchés sans altérer en rien la portée de la résolution.

"J'admets qu'il est absolument nécessaire, comme le propose le Comité, d'inviter le Gouverneur-Général à faire savoir aux autorités et aux fonctionnaires de la province que la Commission Européenne vient de prendre en mains la gestion provisoire des finances par l'intermédiaire d'un Comité Financier et d'un Directeur-Général. Mais il me semble complétement superflu de demander au Gouverneur-Général d'en informer la population par des publications officielles.

"Je crois qu'on aurait dû laisser à l'autorité supérieure de la province le soin de décider quels moyens elle jugera nécessaire d'employer pour que la Commission ne rencontre aucune difficulté dans l'accomplissement de la tâche qui lui est assignée par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin.

"Il en est de même, à mon avis, pour ce qui concerne la communication aux diverses autorités et Administrations de la province du texte de la résolution prise par la Commission. Cette résolution n'étant qu'un acte de règlement intérieur servant d'interprétation à l'Article XIX, et par lequel la Commission a fixé des bases pour sa propre gouverne, elle ne paraît pas avoir de portée pratique pour les autorités locales qui, même par rapport aux finances, auront simplement à exécuter les ordres donnés par le Gouverneur-Général en vertu d'une entente préalable avec la Commission.

"Je propose en conséquence de supprimer : (1) toute la fin du cinquième alinéa à partir des mots "et de la population toute entière," ainsi que tout l'alinéa commençant par les mots, "Le texte de la résolution," &c.

Le Baron de Ring ne doute pas un seul instant que le Gouverneur-Général ne prenne toutes les mesures nécessaires pour faciliter à l'Administration financière l'accomplissement de sa tâche. Mais un intérêt majeur exige que toutes les autorités de la province et la population entière soient informées de l'Administration prévue par le Traité de Berlin :—

"C'est pour cela," dit-il, "que nous devons inviter le Gouverneur-Général à faire connaître nos décisions par tous les moyens en usage dans le pays pour les publications officielles.

"Quant à la résolution adoptée par nous dans notre cinquième séance, du moment qu'elle a été votée par la Commission Européenne, elle constitue une loi de la province, et il est par conséquent indispensable non-seulement qu'elle soit portée à la connaissance des autorités, mais encore qu'elle soit officiellement publiée."

Le Prince Tzeretelew dit qu'au moment où cette résolution a été votée, il lui paraissait entendu qu'elle constituait simplement un programme pour la Commission elle-même et non pas une loi à l'usage du pays. Cette interprétation résulte clairement du texte même, puisque la dernière phrase de la résolution établit que certains règlements visés par une phrase précédente devront être élaborés plus tard. Il ne voit

pas pourquoi une décision de l'Assemblée dont toutes les clauses n'ont pas un caractère définitif devrait être officiellement publiée.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff admet, comme son collègue de France, que la résolution dont il s'agit doit être officiellement publiée, parce qu'elle a force de loi dans la province. Il affirme qu'en matière de finances la Commission est absolument souveraine et ne dépend en aucune façon des autorités actuellement établies dans la Roumélie Orientale, la seule restriction formulée par le Traité de Berlin étant celle qui impose aux Représentants des Puissances le devoir de gérer les finances d'accord avec la Sublime Porte. C'est même en vue de cet accord qu'un membre Ottoman prend part aux travaux du Comité des Finances. D'après le Commissaire de Sa Majesté Britannique c'est donc uniquement par courtoisie que le Comité des Finances propose à la Commission de s'adresser au Gouverneur-Général.

Le Colonel Schepelew soutient que l'administration des finances n'étant qu'une branche de l'administration générale, ce n'est pas seulement par courtoisie, mais par nécessité que la Commission doit s'adresser à l'autorité supérieure. Il déclare du reste qu'il est d'accord avec M. le Baron de Ring pour déclarer que la Commission peut demander au Gouverneur-Général de publier ses décisions par les voies que celui-ci jugera convenables.

Le Baron de Ring répond qu'il n'a pas parlé des "voies paraissant convenables au Gouverneur-Général," mais "des moyens en usage dans la province," ce qui est bien différent.

Le Premier Commissaire de Russie reconnaît la justesse de la distinction faite par son collègue de France, mais il ajoute qu'il n'existe pas dans la province de publications officielles dans le sens qu'on attache à ce mot en occident, et qu'on ne saurait par conséquent imposer au Gouverneur-Général des obligations de ce genre.

M. de Coutouly fait observer que le Comité a simplement entendu demander à l'autorité supérieure de se servir des moyens usités. Si l'objection des Commissaires de Russie porte simplement sur les mots, "pour les publications," le Comité des Finances est prêt à les retirer.

Le Commissaire adjoint de France propose en outre de remplacer les mots, "et de la population" contre lesquels les Délégués de Russie paraissent devoir une objection, puisque le Colonel Schepelew a demandé de les supprimer dans le cinquième alinéa, par ceux-ci, "les contribuables."

Après une discussion à laquelle prennent part tous les Commissaires et dans laquelle quelques-uns des arguments déjà soutenus sont reproduits successivement et développés, l'accord se fait sur les modifications proposées par le rapporteur du Comité des Finances, et la résolution ainsi modifiée est acceptée à l'unanimité.

L'ordre du jour appelle l'examen de la troisième proposition du Comité des Finances, dont la teneur suit :

"Le Comité propose à la Commission d'inviter son Président à bien vouloir faire auprès de son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général Civil et Militaire les démarches nécessaires pour obtenir sans retard l'installation des bureaux du service central de l'Administration des finances dans la partie du konak de Philippopoli, autrefois affectée à des bureaux de même nature."

Le Colonel Schepelew dit qu'il sera probablement assez difficile d'installer l'Administration des Finances dans le konak, parce que cet édifice est déjà occupé presqu'en entier par divers bureaux. Il ne doute pas néanmoins que le Gouverneur-Général ne s'empresse de se prêter à ce sujet aux vœux de la Réunion, si cela est matériellement possible.

En présence de cette déclaration du Premier Commissaire de Russie, *M. de Coutouly*, après avoir consulté ses collègues du Comité, retire la troisième proposition et demande à l'Assemblée d'inviter son Président à se mettre personnellement en rapport avec le Gouverneur-Général pour régler cette affaire.

Le Prince Tzeretelew rappelle que dans le cours de la séance, Sir Henry Drummond Wolff a fait incidemment l'observation que si un Délégué Ottoman a été nommé membre du Comité des Finances, ce choix a été fait en vue de l'accord avec la Sublime Porte mentionné par l'Article XIX du Traité de Berlin. D'après lui, ainsi qu'il l'a déjà déclaré dans une des première séances, l'accord mentionné par l'Article XIX se manifeste par la présence des Délégués Ottomans au sein de la Commission. Celui de ces deux Délégués qui fait partie du Comité des Finances y siége exactement au même titre que Lord Donoughmore et M. de Coutouly.

Sir Henry Drummond Wolff maintient l'opinion que c'est bien en vue d'assurer

l'accord avec la Sublime Porte qu'un membre Ottoman a été désigné pour le Comité des Finances.

Le Président, avec l'assentiment de la Commission, met à l'ordre du jour de la prochaine séance fixée au 6 Novembre.

1. La discussion sur la Loi Organique (seconde partie du programme de travaux présenté par M. de Kallay);

2. La discussion du Projet de Règlement présenté par les Commissaires Ottomans pour le rapatriement des réfugiés en Roumélie Orientale;

3. Le dépôt du Rapport de la sous-Commission des Pétitions.

La séance est levée à 6 heures du soir.

(Signé) v. BRAUNSCHWEIG.
KALLAY.
RING.
COUTOULY.
H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.
DONOUGHMORE.
VERNONI.
SCHEPELEW.
TZERETELEW.
ASSIM.
ABRO.

Certifié conforme à l'original :
(Signé) ROZET.
ISVOLSKY
SELIM.

No. 623.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 120.)

Philippopolis, November 19, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 116 of the 15th instant, I beg to request your Lordship not to consider the wording of the proposed clause about the militia in any way as final.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 624.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 121.)

Philippopolis, November 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE had in my keeping for some hours the original contract for the sale of the dîmes of this province by the Russian Administration, under Prince Dondoukoff, to M. Maréchal, a French artist.

I will venture to call your Lordship's attention to the different points of this document, and of the other papers accompanying it, of all of which I have the honour to inclose copies.

The original contract is in Russian and French. It is signed by General Domantowitch, the Director of Prince Dondoukoff's Chancery, and by M. Maréchal.

In Article 1 General Domantowitch undertakes to sell to M. Maréchal the totality of the grains and cereals of the dîmes coming in 1878 from the provinces of Philippopolis and Slivno. These are to be delivered free by the Russian authorities at the different railway stations, and at the port of Bourgas, M. Maréchal finding the sacks. This is a usual stipulation.

Article 2 prescribes the form of receipts, &c.

Article 3 establishes that the sale is effected by weight, and not by measure of capacity. The unit fixed is 80 okes, or 100 kilogrammes, making the French quintal.

Article 4. The price of the quintal is fixed as follows :—

	Fr. c.
Wheat of all kinds	11 00
Barley	5 00
Rye	5 10
Oats	3 90

At the time the current market price of these grains was quoted as follows :—

	Fr.
Soft wheat	17
Hard wheat	22
Barley	18
Oats	18
Rye	11½

	Market Price.	Maréchal Contract Price.
	Fr.	Fr. c.
Soft wheat	17	11 00
Hard wheat	22	
Barley	18	5 00
Rye	11½	5 10
Oats	18	3 90

In the advertisements for tenders there was no "cahier des charges." Sealed tenders were invited, but not opened in the presence of the bidders, who were told to return in twenty-four hours. As they were opened, they were evidently shown to M. Maréchal, who had previously told the other persons intending to bid that it was useless to contend with him.

In Article 5 M. Maréchal undertakes to pay within ten days, or sooner, under forfeiture of the contract, at Philippopoli, the sum of 3,000,000 francs.

M. Maréchal deposits no caution money, but engages himself, in case of non-execution, to pay damages to the extent of 1,000*l.*, for which no security is stipulated.

By Article 6, M. Maréchal undertakes to buy all other grains and cereals, such as maize, millet, beans, &c., when the quantity and quality are known. A further contract is to be drawn up for this purpose on the general conditions laid down in the first Article.

Article 7 is an arbitration clause.

This document is signed at Philippopolis on the 3rd October. The same night the Prince left Philippopolis for Constantinople with M. Maréchal, and no answer was given to the other bidders.

On the 6th October, the Prince being at Constantinople, the concessionnaire writes to point out an omission in the contract by which he, M. Maréchal, had undertaken to pay 3000,000 fr., while the minimum quantity of grain to be delivered was not specified.

The same day the Prince writes and signs a letter himself, declaring the quantity already stored. These letters are written in the same handwriting.

The next document is an additional Article, signed on the 13th October, at a date subsequent to the operations of the European Commission, and the acknowledgment of their rights over the finances of the province.

It postpones the delivery of grains and cereals to the 6th December, and lays down that the payment of the balance due by M. Maréchal is to be made at Sofia, in case the Russian Imperial Commissioner should meanwhile transfer his administration to that city.

On the 8th November, General Domantowitch writes to M. Maréchal, referring him to the Commission for the completion of Article 6 of the contract. M. Maréchal applied to M. Schmidt, the new Director-General of Finance, making a proposal of prices, the basis of which is utterly incomprehensible to men of business.

I beg to call your Lordship's attention to this scale (inclosure No. 7), and to the charges appertaining to the transaction, in which "frais généraux et sacs" are estimated at 15 fr. per cent. of the double of the price offered.

M. Maréchal began by establishing the price of maize at 9 fr., for which he proposed to give 4½ fr. On M. Schmidt remonstrating at this, M. Maréchal at once raised his basis of offer to 13 fr., accepting the prices of Marseilles, and his actual offer to 7 fr., being the price of the place.

Taking Marseilles prices as a basis, I wish to contrast them against the basis and the offer of M. Maréchal. I also add a column of the prices asked by the Director-General, and the offers made him by others, without competition.

	Original Maréchal Basis.	Marseilles Prices.	Original Maréchal Offer.	Director-General's Prices.	Offers made to Director-General.
	Fr.	Fr.	Fr. c.	Fr.	Fr. c.
Maize	9	13	4 50	7	9 50
Haricots	12	22	6 00	14	13 50
Pois chiches	13	(?)	6 50	12	12 50
Fèves de marais et autres	9	22	4 50	11	10 50
Lentilles	8	27	4 00	10	9 00
Byrtschak	6	(?)	3 00	6	8 00
Millet	6	11	3 00	4	5 00
Graines de lin	12	31½	6 00	16	14 00
Sesame	13	50	6 50	25	35 00
Kuplidja	0	(?)	3 00	8	7 50
Alpiste (canary-seed)	6	(?)	3 00	18	16 00
Walnuts	13	(?)	6 50	15	13 50
Anise	6	(?)	3 00	60	55 00

I may here say that, in a recent contract for barley made by the Russian military authorities, the price of that grain was fixed at 22 fr. This contract was not made with M. Maréchal; but your Lordship will see that the price at which the barley of the dîmes was sold by Russian authorities to that artist was 5 fr.

In the analysis, as stated above, details are given at greater length than in the Maréchal offer to the Director-General (inclosure No. 7).

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure 1 in No. 624.

Contract.

(Russian Ratification and Seal.)

ENTRE les Soussignés:

1. M. Le Général Domantovitch, Directeur de la Chancellerie, Délégué Spécial du Commissaire Impérial Russe en Bulgarie, et en Roumélie Orientale, agissant au nom du dit Commissaire Impérial Russe, et en vertu de la décision du Conseil d'Administration en date du $\frac{20 \text{ Septembre}}{2 \text{ Octobre}}$ de l'année courante, d'une part; et,

2. M. C. R. Maréchal, sujet Français, négociant, se trouvant actuellement à Philippopoli, d'autre part:

Il a été convenu et arrêté ce qui suit:

Article 1. M. Le Général Domantovitch ès dites qualités, s'oblige au nom de l'Administration du Commissaire Impérial à consigner à M. C. R. Maréchal, qui accepte, la totalité des grains et céréales quelconques constituant les dîmes perçus dans les Gouvernements de Philippopoli et de Slivno pendant l'année 1878.

Cette consignation aura lieu dans les diverses gares du chemin de fer de la Compagnie Impériale Ottomane, et au port de Bourgas. La concentration des grains et céréales mentionnés ci-dessus aura lieu par les soins et aux frais de l'Administration Russe, ainsi que le transport de ces points de concentration aux gares et au port de Bourgas.

M. C. R. Maréchal s'engage à tenir en temps utile à la disposition de l'Administration Russe, la quantité de sacs que celle-ci jugera nécessaire pour contenir les grains, et il devra les délivrer aux lieux qui lui seront désignés par l'autorité.

Tous les grains et céréales, mis en sacs, devront être consignés à M. Maréchal dans un délai qui expirera le $\frac{1}{13}$ Novembre, 1878.

Art. 2. M. Maréchal devra avoir aux diverses gares à désigner, ainsi qu'au port de Bourgas, des agents spéciaux qui seront chargés de peser immédiatement, et contradictoirement avec les agents de l'autorité Russe, les sacs de grains qui seront

présentés par ceux-ci; les reçus des agents de M. Maréchal feront foi pour les réglements de compte, dont il sera parlé plus loin, et, une fois les marchandises pesées et livrées à ces agents, la responsabilité des dites marchandises cessera complétement pour l'Administration Russe.

Art. 3. Les grains et céréales sont achetés au poids par M. Maréchal et non à la mesure de capacité. L'unité de poids adoptée est de 80 oques, ou 100 kilog., laquelle unité de poids est connue en France sous le nom de quintal. Ce quintal équivaut à livres Russes 244 et $\frac{24}{100}$, ou 6 pouds, 4 livres et $\frac{24}{100}$ de livre.

Art. 4. M. Maréchal paiera pour chaque quintal ou unité de poids les prix suivants:—

	Fr. c.
Froment quelle que soit sa qualité ou sa provenance	11 00
Orge " "	5 00
Seigle " "	5 10
Avoine " "	3 90

Les décomptes se feront en francs et centimes. Tous les paiements auront lieu en monnaie d'or, savoir:—

La pièce de 20 fr.	Au pair.
Le pol Impérial Russe	20 fr. 50 c.
La livre Turque	22 fr.

Art. 5. M. Maréchal s'oblige à verser à Philippopoli, au trésor, la somme de 3,000,000 fr. en or, et ce dans le délai matériel le plus court pour transporter cette somme de Constantinople à Philippopoli. Si cette somme n'est pas versée dans un délai de dix jours à dater du présent contrat, le dit contrat deviendra nul et de nul effet, et à titre de dommages et intérêts M. Maréchal s'engage à verser à l'Administration du Commissaire Impérial Russe en Bulgarie la somme de 25,000 fr. en or.

La dite somme de 3,000,000 fr. sera portée au compte de M. Maréchal comme paiement anticipé des quantités de graines et céréales qu'il aura à recevoir de l'Administration Russe. Le prix du reste des dits grains et céréales sera payé comptant par M. Maréchal dès que toutes les livraisons seront accomplies, et contre présentation des quittances de livraison émanant de ses agents.

Art. 6. M. Maréchal s'engage en outre à acheter tous les grains et céréales provenant des dîmes, et qui ne sont pas désignés ci-dessus, tels que maïs, millet, fèves, haricots, &c., lorsque la quantité et la qualité de ces grains seront connues.

Le prix auquel ces grains seront payés fera l'objet d'une Convention ultérieure qui sera annexée au présent contrat, dont les conditions générales seront applicables à la dite Convention.

Art. 7. Toutes les contestations qui pourraient se produire au sujet de l'interprétation et de l'exécution du présent contrat seront jugées à l'amiable, et sans appel, par deux arbitres: l'un nommé par l'Administration Russe, et l'autre par M. Maréchal.

Ces deux arbitres pourront nommer un sub-arbitre pour les départager en cas de désaccord.

Fait double à Philippopoli, pour un seul et même effet, le $\frac{21 \text{ Septembre}}{3 \text{ Octobre}}$, 1878.

Approuvé l'écriture,

(Signé) C. R. MARÉCHAL.

(Signed with a Russian declaration.)

Vu au Consulat de France à Constantinople, le 7 Octobre, 1878, pour légalisation de la signature de M. Ch. Raphaël Maréchal, citoyen Français.

Pour le Consul,

(L.S.) Le Chancelier autorisé.

Inclosure 2 in No. 624.

M. Maréchal to Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff.

Mon Prince, *Constantinople, le 6 Octobre*, 1878.

PROFITANT de la présence de votre Excellence dans cette ville, j'ai l'honneur de lui signaler une importante lacune dans le contrat que j'ai signé il y a trois jours à Philippopoli avec le Général Domantowitch agissant au nom de l'Administration de la Roumélie Orientale, pour l'achat des dîmes des Gouvernements de Philippopoli et de Slivno.

A l'Article 5 de ce contrat il est dit que je dois verser sous dix jours une somme de 3,000,000 fr. à titre de paiement anticipé des dîmes; mais à aucun Article du dit contrat ne se trouve inscrit quelle est la quantité minimum de grains connue jusqu'à ce jour, et que je dois recevoir avant le 13 Novembre prochain pour couvrir cette somme de trois millions.

Sans recourir à votre Administration ne pourriez vous, mon Prince, me fixer pour les quantités connues jusqu'à ce jour pour le blé, et pour les trois autres natures de céréales mentionnés au contrat.

(Signé) C. R. MARÉCHAL.

Vu au Consulat de France de Constantinople, le 7 Octobre, 1878, pour légalisation de la signature de M. C. R. Maréchal, citoyen Français.

Pour le Consul,
(L.S.) Le Chancelier autorisé.

Inclosure 3 in No 624.

Prince Dondoukoff Korsakoff to M. Maréchal.

Constantinople, le 21 Septembre / 3 Octobre, 1878.

Monsieur,

EN réponse à votre lettre en date d'aujourd'hui par laquelle vous me demandez de fixer la quantité des céréales provenant des dîmes des Provinces de Philippopolis et de Slivno, et qui doit vous être remise pour couvrir la somme de 3,000,000 fr. versée par vous à titre de paiement anticipé. Je vous informe qu'il est à ma connaissance qu'il existe actuellement dans les magasins une quantité minimum de blé équivalent à 200,000 sacs de cent kilog. chacun, et environ 100,000 sacs des autres céréales mentionnées au contrat.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) DONDOUKOFF KORSAKOFF,
Commissaire Impériale de Russie en Bulgarie.

(Russian visa.)
(L.S.)

Inclosure 4 in No. 624.

Additional Article to the Contract between General Domantowitch and M. Maréchal, October 1/13, 1878.

AU contrat du 21 Septembre / 3 Octobre, 1878, passé entre M. le Général Domantowitch agissant dans les qualités énoncées au dit contrat, et en vertu de la délibération du Conseil d'Administration du Commissaire Impérial Russe, prise dans la séance du 30 Septembre / 12 Octobre, 1878, et M. C. R. Maréchal.

Par dérogation à l'Article 1 du contrat sus-énoncé, il a été convenu d'un commun accord, entre les Soussignés, que le délai de livraison expirant, d'après le contrat, au 1/13 Novembre, 1878, expirera seulement le 24 Novembre / 6 Décembre 1878.

Il a été convenu également que les paiements à effectuer pour solde du prix des céréales vendues à M. Maréchal seront faits à Sophia dans le cas où l'Administration du Commissaire Impérial Russe serait transportée en cette dernière ville.

Fait en double original à Philippopoli le 1/13 Octobre, 1878, pour être annexé au contrat principal du 21 Septembre / 3 Octobre, 1878.

Approuvé l'écriture,
(Signé) C. R. MARÉCHAL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 624.

General Domantowitch to M. Maréchal.

Le 27 Octobre / 8 Novembre 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que par dérogation spéciale au contrat que vous avez passé le 21 Septembre / 3 Octobre, 1878, pour l'acquisition de la totalité des dîmes de l'année 1878, dans les Gouvernements de Philippoli et de Slivno, ce n'est plus avec notre Administration que vous devez régler les conditions de l'Article 6 du dit contrat,

mais bien avec la section des finances de la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale, siégant actuellement à Philippopoli.

Vous voudrez bien, en conséquence, vous rendre dans cette ville, et par entremise du Commissaire Impérial Russe, Colonel Schépeleff, vous mettre en relations avec la dite Commission pour débattre et fixer avec elle le plus prochainement possible le prix des divers grains mentionnés à l'Article 6 de notre contrat. C'est également au trésor de l'Administration de la Roumélie Orientale que vous aurez à verser le montant de ces divers grains lorsqu'ils vous auront été totalement délivrés, le tout conformément aux clauses et conditions générales et particulières de notre dit contrat du 21 Septembre / 3 Octobre, 1878.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) M. DOMANTOWITCH.

Inclosure 6 in No. 624.

M. Maréchal to M. Schmidt.

Philippopoli, le 14 Novembre, 1878.

CONFORMÉMENT aux instructions qui me sont données dans la lettre de M. le Général Domantowitch, en date du 27 Octobre (v.s.), dont je vous ai donné communication, j'ai l'honneur de vous remettre ci-joint un Tableau contenant les prix que je vous propose pour tous les grains mentionnés à l'Article 6 de mon contrat pour l'achat de la totalité des dîmes de 1878 dans les Gouvernements de Philippopoli et de Slivno, passé à la date du 21 Septembre / 3 Octobre, 1878.

Dans plusieurs districts de nombreux sacs de maïs sont présentés à mes agents, qui sont mis en demeure d'en prendre possession; d'autre part, le délai extrême de la livraison de toute la dîme expire au 6 Décembre prochain. Je viens donc, M. le Directeur, vous prier de prendre une décision aussi prochaine que possible au sujet de la fixation des prix de vente des grains visés par l'Article 6 du contrat précité.

Espérant une prompte réponse, j'ai l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) C. R. MARÉCHAL.

Inclosure 7 in No. 624.

TABLE OF PRICES.

Nature des grains.	Prix en gros par 80 okques.	Frais à déduire.		Prix net des 80 okques.	Moyenne.
	Frs.		Fr. c.	Fr. c.	Fr. c.
		Coulage, 10 pour cent ..	0 90		
		Frais généraux et sacs, 15 pour cent	1 35		
Maïs	0	Transports, transbordements, 15 pour cent	1 35	4 50	4 50
		Bénéfice, 10 pour cent ..	0 90		
Grains divers—					
Haricots	12		6 00	6 00	
Pois chiches	13		6 50	6 50	
Fèves de marais et autres ..	9		4 50	4 50	
Lentilles	8		4 00	4 00	
Byrtschak	6		3 00	3 00	
Millet et autres	0		0 00	0 00	
Menus grains	6		3 00	3 00	
				27 00	4 20
Graines oléagineuses—					
Grain de lin	12		6 00	6 00	
Sésame et autres substances oléagineuses	13		6 50	6 50	
				12 50	6 25
					14 95
		Moyenne totale en chiffres ronds ..		..	5 00

No. 625.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 122.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 19, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Memorandum by Vice-Consul Calvert of information received from Hasskeui, respecting the conduct of the Bulgarians, and of the Russian Governor, towards the Greek population and the Turkish refugees.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 625.

Memorandum.

FIFTEEN days ago the Russian Governor of our town summoned us and asked us what were our feelings and opinions.

We replied that we were Greeks and adherents of the Patriarchate, as he might perceive for himself by our separate churches, schools, priests, and schoolmasters.

The Governor then read to us several newspapers, which contained accounts of misdeeds and outrages committed by Bulgarians upon us and upon our Greek brethren in the villages of our district.

When he had finished we said that some of the acts related in these papers were unknown to us.

The Governor then asked of us that we should contradict these statements, and he ended by asking that we should choose from among ourselves three of our fellow Greeks to be admitted into the local Councils (medjlisses), and that our priest should draw up for him a list of all those adhering to the Patriarchate in Hasskeui.

Subsequently, on the advice of several Bulgarian notables, and particularly of a certain Zlataroff, the Governor sent for the priest, and ordered that he should send all the Greek heads of families to the konak in order that they should themselves in person state in writing their religious denomination.

Every one of us (Holiness*) knows that this last order is a stratagem with the object of frightening the fainthearted among us, and induce them to deny their faith.

The Bulgarian community of Hasskeui is endeavouring, by every means in its power, to split up and crush the Greek community. The things we have to endure in consequence are unheard of and impossible adequately to describe. We do not recount them because they are known to everybody.

Only will our sorrows cease when our community shall be represented in the Administration. Up to the present we continue to have no representatives in the local Government, because the Bulgarian members of it find pretexts for refusing to admit among them those whom the Governor ordered us to elect. In consequence we pray that (your Holiness†) will make known our situation to those whom it may concern, and advise us what to do.

‡[We kiss your hands, and remain the humble servants of the Church.

Follow sixteen signatures of Greek notables, and the official (Turkish) seat of the community.]

§The Greek schoolmaster of Hasskeui writes to the Greek Archbishop of Philippopolis, under date of the $\frac{27\text{th October}}{9\text{th November}}$:—

A few days ago twenty Turks (refugees) came down from the Rhodope mountains, made their submission to the authorities of Hasskeui, and received from them safe-conducts to return to their village (Davidevé). But on their way to the village, they were attacked by the Bulgarians of Yeni-Mahallé, which is only two hours distant from Hasskeui. The Bulgarians murdered sixteen of them on the spot; the other four they pursued, and captured two near the village of Kara-Bazar, whom they dragged to Yeni-Mahallé, where they murdered them, and threw their bodies into a well.

* Please omit in publishing.—H. D. W.
† You. Please alter for publication.—H. D. W.
‡ Please substitute for these two paragraphs "Follow signatures."—H. D. W.
§ This paragraph should not be printed, as it would compromise the Archbishop.—H. D. W.

Lately, also, the body of a Turk who had been murdered was found near the village of Tatarkeui-Ouroudéré.

Last night another Turk was murdered in our town, in the quarter of Delik Agha.

Orders are given for the arrest of the authors of all these crimes, but only for the eyes of the public; because those who are at the head of the local Courts browbeat and frown down any witnesses who attempt to give evidence likely to lead to the conviction of the criminals. They even ignore misdeeds which take place under their eyes; much more, then, such as occur at a distance.

The Bulgarians here are openly enrolling volunteers, who get drunk and parade the streets, shouting "Long life to Bulgaria; may the Greeks burst."

The following tragical event, of which I was myself a witness, occurred to-day, in full daylight:—

Some volunteers met a Turk wearing the uniform of a Turkish Civic Guard, and ordered him to change his dress. He said he was ready to do so if they would provide him with other clothes. The Bulgarians began to abuse him, and then pelted him with stones. The unfortunate Turk tried to make his escape, but the Bulgarians seized him and fell on him like eagles, some striking him with sticks, some with bottles, and some trying to strangle him. I and other eye-witnesses attempted to interfere in his favour, but the Bulgarians, who were led by Guerbesh Tonoff and Sheitanoglou, continued to shower a hail of blows and kicks on their unhappy victim. Finally they left him senseless, covered with blood, and hardly breathing. He was taken to his house in a cart. The ringleaders in this affair were arrested, but they will probably be set free, for, when some witnesses offered to give evidence against them, they were intimidated by the Judges. . . .

This town and district have become a hotbed of every kind of outrage, misdemeanour, and disorder. Greeks and Turks alike are the victims of these unchecked crimes. Daily we hear of fresh outrages, fresh violations, fresh murders, insults, intrigues, robberies, and the like. Often I have heard the Turks say that they cannot live in the country if it is to form part of Bulgaria; and the Greeks curse the day on which they were born, and say that their only chance of leading a bearable life is to become Bulgarians.

Another letter *(from the same schoolmaster), dated the 10th November, says:—

The Bulgarians of Judjekeui, I learn to-day, murdered a Turk and robbed him of 30 Turkish pounds which he had just realized by the sale of three oxen belonging to him in their village. He was killed while returning to his village, and his two little children who were with him were wounded.

The other day the Bulgarians stole two pair of oxen belonging to the Turk, Mehremoglou, in this town.

Last night the Bulgarian soldiers were dancing and rejoicing, having heard that Europe had decided to extend the limits of Bulgaria to Ouzoun-kieupru.

Hasskeui, $\frac{\text{October 29}}{\text{November 10}}$ 1878.

No. 626.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 123.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 19, 1878.

ALTHOUGH your Lordship has probably already received from Her Majesty's Ambassador copies of the inclosed documents, I nevertheless transmit them to your Lordship, as they were given me by the Turkish Commissioners, and serve to complete the record of my residence at this place.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

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* Please omit.—H. D. W.

Inclosure 1 in No. 626.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Labanoff.

Le 7 Novembre, 1878.

J'ACCOMPLIS de nouveau un devoir douloureux en venant signaler à votre Excellence les actes d'agression et de brigandage commis par les bandes des Bulgares dans les districts de Dimotika, dans les journées de Vendredi et Samedi, 20 et 21 Octobre (v. s.). Quatre mille Bulgares environ bien armés et composés en partie de fantassins, et en partie de cavaliers, se sont rués sur les villages Musulmans de Sémeler, Quosseler, Vakif, Kiofulu, Ramazan, Caraviram, Babalar, Salai-Déré, Derbend-Kebir, ont massacré les femmes et les enfants tombés entre leurs mains, en leur faisant subir d'horribles tortures, ont pillé les bestiaux, les céréales, et tous les effets des habitants, et ont ensuite détruit ces villages par le feu.

Les villages qui ont été l'objet de cette abominable agression sont situés sur la limite même du territoire occupé par les troupes Russes, et comme il est matériellement impossible que les bandes d'une telle importance aient pu se former et s'armer sur le territoire même de leurs sinistres exploits, il devient évident qu'elles se sont constituées et préparées sous les yeux même des autorités militaires Russes, qui ne sauraient dans cette circonstances échapper à la terrible responsabilité qu'elles ont encourue.

Votre Excellence a bien voulu nous donner tout récemment l'assurance formelle de la ferme volonté du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie de mettre obstacle, par les mesures les plus énergiques, à toute entreprise insurrectionnelle qui se préparait sur le territoire occupé par ses troupes. Les faits que je viens d'exposer étant en contradiction flagrante avec les intentions exprimées par votre Excellence, je suis convaincu que le Gouvernement Impérial de Russie n'hésitera pas à faire bonne et prompte justice.

La Sublime Porte demande, en conséquence, qu'une enquête rigoureuse soit immédiatement faite de concert avec les autorités Ottomanes, tant sur les lieux qui ont été le théâtre de cette sauvage agression que sur le territoire occupé par les troupes Russes, et qui a dû être le foyer original de ces entreprises.

Ce n'est qu'au moyen de ces investigations sévères et minutieuses que les deux Gouvernements pourront connaître exactement la source de ces criminelles tentatives, prendre d'un commun accord les mesures propres à en prévenir le retour, et enfin à assurer le châtiment des coupables et de leurs complices, à quelque rang qu'ils appartiennent.

Votre Excellence, j'en suis certain, s'associera avec empressement aux demandes si légitimes de la Sublime Porte, et qui sont impérieusement commandées par le désir commun des deux Gouvernements de maintenir l'ordre et la paix publique dans ces contrées, et prévenir ainsi de plus grands désastres.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAFVET.

Inclosure 2 in No. 626.

Safvet Pasha to Prince Labanoff.

Le 7 Novembre, 1878.

LES membres Ottomans de la Commission des Réfugiés siégeant au Consulat-Général de Russie ont adressé à la Sublime Porte un Rapport, duquel il résulte qu'à la dernière séance de la Commission leurs collègues Russes les ont avisés que les autorités militaires de la Roumélie Orientale s'opposaient à tout envoi de réfugiés Musulmans dans cette province jusqu'à nouvel ordre, déclarant que cette mesure était justifiée par l'occupation de toutes les habitations libres par les réfugiés Bulgares qui ont suivi l'armée Russe dans sa retraite.

Les Délégués Russes consentaient seulement au départ pour la Roumélie Orientale des réfugiés qui justifieraient avoir leurs familles dans la province, ou qui demanderaient à s'y rendre pour le réglement de quelque affaire sous l'engagement de revenir ensuite à Constantinople.

Cette mesure, qui aurait pour effet de suspendre indéfiniment, et à l'entrée de la mauvaise saison, le repatriement des réfugiés Musulmans dans la Roumélie Orientale, est en opposition formelle avec le droit commun, avec l'entente intervenue à ce sujet entre la Sublime Porte et l'Ambassade Impériale, et, enfin, avec les assurances réitérées que votre Excellence a bien voulu nous donner à cet égard. Je suis donc convaincu que votre Excellence refusera de donner son approbation aux demandes inadmissibles des autorités militaires Russes, et voudra bien en même temps donner aux membres Russes de la Commission des Réfugiés l'ordre catégorique de permettre le repatriement, aussi bien dans la Roumélie Orientale qu'en Bulgare, des réfugiés Musulmans qui demandent à rentrer dans leurs foyers.

Je dois en même temps signaler à la plus sérieuse attention de votre Excellence un fait extrêmement grave, qui nous est confirmé par les déclarations mêmes des membres Russes de la Commission des Réfugiés. Il appert, en effet, de leur déclaration, que toutes les propriétés des Musulmans absents de la Roumélie Orientale ont été envahies, et sont actuellement occupées par les Bulgares venus du dehors de la province à la suite de l'armée Russe, et que ce serait là le motif qui s'opposerait à la rentrée des réfugiés Musulmans. Il s'ensuivrait que ces malheureux non-seulement seraient privés de rentrer dans leurs pays et de reprendre possession de leurs biens, mais encore devraient accepter cette privation au profit d'individus étrangers à la province.

Votre Excellence reconnaîtra qu'il suffit d'énoncer un pareil fait pour en faire ressortir la gravité, et, confiant dans l'équité et la loyauté du Gouvernement Impérial de Russie, je viens la prier avec instance de vouloir bien prendre la disposition nécessaire pour la cessation immédiate de cet état de choses, tant en Bulgarie que dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Je dois également prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien prendre acte des réserves que je suis en devoir de formuler pour la conversation des droits des réfugiés Musulmans sur leurs propriétés et pour la restitution qui doit leur en être faite.

No. 627.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 124.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 19, 1878.

THE day before yesterday we had a special sitting to consider the answer to the petition which we desired to publish.

The most extraordinary opposition was shown to the publication by the Russian Commissioners, who only consented to its non-official publication in the "Maritza."

As I anticipated, a very great difficulty has arisen in our proceedings by the admission of the right of the Governor-General to address us directly, instead of through the Russian Commissioners. We are now in such a position that while the Governor-General can write to us, we cannot answer him except with the assent of our Russian colleagues.

I have not as yet obtained a copy of the letter referred to, but hope to do so in the course of the day. Otherwise it shall be forwarded by post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 628.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 125.)

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November* 19, 1878.

GENERAL TODLEBEN, who was here yesterday, has, I hear, spoken in the strongest manner to the Bulgarians who applied to him for union with the Principality. He told them that Russia had signed the Treaty of Berlin, and that the provisions of that Treaty was all they had to look to. A great depression has been caused amongst the Bulgarians, who now are inclined to see what can be obtained from the Commission.

I have sent indirectly to inform some of the Bulgarian political leaders that I shall be happy to discuss with them any questions they like connected with the Commission whenever they will do me the honour to visit me.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 629.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 126.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Philippopolis, November 19, 1878.*

WE had a sitting of the Commission to-day. We got through nearly all the chapter "Droits des Citoyens," copies of which I inclose, without, however, the alterations introduced.

Later Baron de Ring and myself spoke very strongly of the manner in which the Russian Commissioners make use of their right of veto on current business, and proposals are to be brought forward by Prince Tzerctelew and M. de Coutouly to establish the rights of majorities in the routine part of our labours.

I understand that General Todleben spoke strongly to the Russian authorities as to their mode of conducting themselves, and I hope there may be some improvement both in their demeanour and in the condition of the unhappy Turks.

I have, &c.

(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

Inclosure in No. 629.

II.—Droits des Citoyens.

Egalité devant la Loi.

Article 1. Les habitants indigènes de la Roumélie Orientale, sans distinction de races et de croyances religieuses, jouissent des mêmes droits.

Les fonctions et emplois publics leurs sont également accessibles, suivant leurs aptitudes, leur mérite, et leur capacité.

Les fonctionnaires et employés de la province sont pris, autant que possible, parmi ses habitants.

Art. 2. Tout impôt est établi pour l'utilité commune. Chacun y contribue en proposition de ses facultés et de sa fortune.

Art. 3. Aucun nouvel impôt ne peut être établi et perçu qu'en vertu de la Loi.

Liberté Religieuse.

Art. 4. Chacun professe librement sa religion et reçoit de l'autorité, pour l'exercice de son culte, une égale protection.

Tous les cultes sont tenus de se conformer aux lois générales ainsi qu'aux réglements de police sur leur exercice extérieur.

Art. 5. Nul ne peut être contraint de concourir d'une manière quelconque aux actes et aux cérémonies d'un culte, ni d'en observer les jours de repos.

Liberté Individuelle.—Inviolabilité du Domicile.

Art. 6. La liberté individuelle est garantie.

Nul ne peut être poursuivi, arrêté, emprisonné ou soumis à une instruction quelconque de sa liberté que dans les cas prévus par la loi et dans les formes qu'elle prescrit.

Hors le cas flagrant de délit et sauf l'application des règles que comporte l'état de siége légalement établi, nul ne peut être arrêté ou emprisonné qu'en vertu d'un mandat de justice motivé qui doit être signifié au moment de l'arrestation, au plus tard, dans les vingt heures qui suivent l'arrestation.

Tout individu arrêté sera nécessairement interrogé par le magistrat compétent dans les deux jours qui suivront celui de son arrestation,

Art. 7. Nul ne peut être distrait de ses juges naturels.

Il ne peut être établi de Commission spéciales dans les affaires criminélles.

Art. 8. Nulle peine ne peut être appliqué qu'en vertu d'une loi qui l'établisse d'avance.

Art. 9. La demeure de toute personne habitant la Roumélie Orientale est inviolable. Il n'est permis d'y pénétrer d'autorité que sous les formes et dans les cas prévus par la loi.

Liberté du Travail et de l'Industrie.

Art. 10. Aucun genre de travail, d'industrie, ou de culture ne peut être prohibé, à moins qu'il ne soit en opposition avec la morale publique, la sécurité, ou la santé des habitants.

Art. 11. Il ne peut y avoir dans la Roumélie Orientale d'autres monopoles que ceux établis législativement pour créer des revenus publics ou dans l'intérêt de la sécurité publique.

Droit de Propriété.

Art. 12. Toutes les propriétés sont inviolables.

Nul ne peut être privé de sa propriété que pour cause d'utilité publique dûment constatée, dans le cas et de la manière établis par la loi, moyennant une juste et préalable indemnité.

Art. 13. La confiscation des biens ne peut avoir lieu dans la Roumélie Orientale.

Les biens des accusés et des condamnés contumaces ne peuvent être sequestrés.

Liberté d'Enseignement.

Art. 14. L'enseignement est libre.

La liberté d'enseignement s'exerce selon les conditions de capacité et de moralité déterminées par les lois, et sous la surveillance de l'autorité, au point de vue des bonnes mœurs, de l'ordre public et du respect des lois de l'Etat.

Cette surveillance s'étend à tous les établissements d'éducation et d'enseignement sans aucune exception.

Liberté des Manifestations de la Pensée.

Art. 15. Chacun a le droit de manifester ses opinions de vive voix, par écrit et par la voix de la presse, en se conformant aux lois.

Art. 16. La liberté de la presse est consacrée.

La loi réprime l'abus de cette liberté.

La censure préalable ne peut être établie.

Aucune mesure fiscale ne pourra grever les publications de la presse.

Droit de Réunion et d'Association.

Art. 17. Les habitants de la Roumélie ont le droit de s'assembler paisiblement et sans armes, en se conformant aux lois qui peuvent régler l'exercice de ce droit, sans néanmoins les soumettre à une autorisation préalable.

Cette disposition ne s'applique point aux rassemblements en plein air, qui restent entièrement soumis aux lois de police.

Art. 18. Les habitants de la Roumélie Orientale ont le droit de former des associations pourvu qu'il n'y ait, dans le but de ces associations ou dans les moyens qu'elles emploient, rien d'illicite ou de dangereux pour l'Etat.

La loi règle, en vue du maintien de la sécurité publique, l'exercice du droit d'association.

Droits de Pétition.

Art. 19. Chacun a le droit d'adresser aux autorités publiques des pétitions signées par une ou plusieurs personnes.

Les autorités constituées ont seules le droit d'adresser des pétitions en nom collectif.

Emplois des différentes Langues.

Le Turc reste la langue officielle de l'Administration et des Tribunaux. Néanmoins l'emploi des langues Bulgare et Grecque est facultatif pour les particuliers dans leurs rapports avec l'Administration et les Tribunaux. L'Administration et les Tribunaux répondront aux requêtes et communications des particuliers dans la langue choisis par ceux-ci.

Les jugements et arrêts ainsi que les actes de l'Administration, publications, et affiches, seront rédigés simultanément en langue Turque, Bulgare, et Grecque.

No. 630.

Consul Henderson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 9. Political.)
My Lord, *Aleppo, November 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith a copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, reporting the capture and imprisonment of Christian women and children by Kiamil Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

Inclosure in No. 630.

Consul Henderson to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Aleppo, November 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that Kiamil Pasha, on his recent visit to Zeitoun, seized nineteen Christian women and children, and sent them prisoners to Aleppo. After a journey of twenty-five days, during which one of the women died, these poor creatures arrived here in a most shocking condition. The Armenian Bishop has meantime taken charge of several of them, and he informed me that he had sent the whole details of this miserable affair to your Excellency, through the Patriarch at Constantinople. I abstain, therefore, from troubling your Excellency with them. The report which is current here, and is believed by every one, that the women were violated by the zaptiehs and soldiers, ought to be received with caution, as it has not been substantiated by my inquiries.

The Zeitoungli are exasperated in the highest degree at the Vali's conduct and the treatment these women have received at the hands of the Mussulmans, and, actuated by a pardonable feeling of revenge, they attacked the troops a few days ago in a body 500 strong; 10 were killed and 40 taken prisoners. Kiamil Pasha has returned to Zeitoun.

A feeling of the greatest indignation has been aroused among the Christian population of the province by this act of barbarity on the part of the Governor-General, and even the respectable part of the Mussulman population are at no pains to conceal their abhorrence at this ill-treatment of defenceless and inoffending women and children, as, whatever may be the faults of the Arab character, nothing is considered more despicable or dishonourable among them than the ill-treatment of women. Two of the leading Arab notables—one a Pasha—have expressed to me their regret that the Government should allow such conduct to pass unpunished, as it is by such acts of cruelty and indiscretion that bloodshed and disorder are perpetuated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) P. HENDERSON.

No. 631.

Major Gordon, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Güdeler, November 14, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of your Lordship, that the Commission for the Delimitation of Eastern Roumelia fixed the point 5 kilo. on the River Maritza, and above the bridge of Mustapha Pasha on the 11th instant, and on the 12th instant a point on the heights dividing the watersheds of the Rivers Maritza and the Demficoli.

From the latter point there is no question or difficulty in delimitating the boundary line as far as Küdeler Bair, and as laid down in Article XIV of the Treaty of Berlin, and which is the best for administrative purposes, and is of no military importance.

The Russian Government has attached an officer of their Topographical Department to make a survey of the line as delimitated by the Commission. Colonel Philipoff,

the Russian Commissioner, has offered to place at our disposal the results obtained, which, after being checked, will be attached to the Protocols.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. GORDON.

No. 632.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1124. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 16, 1878.*

ON receiving your Lordship's telegram of the 11th instant, stating that, in your opinion, no good could come to the remonstrance which the Porte proposed to address to the Powers, signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, against the proceedings of the Russian authorities in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia in permitting bands of armed Bulgarians to pass into Macedonia, I advised the Grand Vizier not to send the Circular to this effect, of which the draft had been prepared, to the Turkish Representatives abroad, and it has consequently been withheld for the present, and will probably not be despatched at all.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 633.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1125. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 16, 1878.*

I SAW the Sultan to-day on His Majesty's invitation. His Majesty desired to know whether I was authorized to inform him officially in writing of the intention of Her Majesty's Government, which I had communicated to him verbally at my previous interview, to unite with him in compelling Russia to execute the Treaty of Berlin by evacuating the Province of Eastern Roumelia in the month of May next in the event of her refusing to do so. I told His Majesty that I had reason to believe that I should be authorized to make the communication he desired, but upon certain conditions, one of which was that Turkey should without delay surrender Podgoritza and Spuz. I again urged very strongly upon His Majesty the necessity of executing all that part of the Treaty of Berlin which depended upon him, in order that Russia might have no excuse for evading her obligations under it, and that Her Majesty's Government might be perfectly free to support Turkey in calling upon Russia to carry out all her engagements.

His Majesty replied that he had been and still was pressing his Ministers to bring the question of the Montenegrin frontier to a speedy settlement. He had been informed that Hussein Pasha, the Governor of Scutari, was throwing obstacles in the way of it, and was encouraging the inhabitants of Podgoritza and Spuz, and the Albanians in general, to resist the decisions of the Congress. He had at once given orders for the recall of this functionary, and a new Governor would be appointed who would lose no time in putting into execution His Majesty's commands.

The Sultan then spoke of the concessions he was called upon to make to Greece. He described the language held to him on the subject by the French Ambassador, from which, His Majesty said, he had come to the conclusion that France, having hitherto played a somewhat insignificant part in the Eastern question, was now desirous of assuming to herself the credit of having done a great deal for Greece, and of thus re-establishing her influence in the East. At the same time, His Majesty went on to say he had perceived very clearly, from the very reserved and cautious manner in which M. Fournier had spoken to him, that, even after he should have fulfilled all his Treaty engagements, the settlement of the Greek question included, he had nothing whatever to expect from France except perhaps moral support, even in the event of Russia making a fresh and unprovoked war upon him, or refusing to carry out her part of the Treaty of Berlin.

His Majesty then observed that he was greatly gratified to find that such was not the attitude of England, who, having a greater interest in upholding Turkey and

enabling her to maintain her strength, would not, he was convinced, go so far as France in calling upon her to make concessions and sacrifices in order to satisfy the Greeks, which could only be a source of weakness to her.

I replied that such might be the case; but I begged His Majesty to remember, at the same time, that Her Majesty's Government considered it essential to the interests of Turkey herself, as well as to those of peace, that some arrangement should be come to without delay which would prove satisfactory to Greece, and be the means of establishing friendly relations between the two countries. His Majesty was aware, I said, that France had proposed to the Signatory Powers to join in an identic note calling upon the Porte to fulfil its engagements under the Treaty of Berlin with regard to Greece.

This step had not been taken owing to the refusal of Her Majesty's Government to join in it: but it had not been abandoned, and Her Majesty's Government would not be able to refuse their consent to it much longer unless the Porte gave proofs to the Powers of its intention to meet their wishes and recommendations. It was, therefore, highly expedient that His Majesty should propose at once some acceptable basis for a rectification of the Greek frontier.

His Majesty answered that the difficulty of coming to an understanding with Greece for a rectification of her frontier was much increased by the intrigues of certain parties at Constantinople, who sought rather to benefit their own special private interests in the matter than to protect and promote those of the Empire. The persons to whom he alluded, and he specially mentioned Abraham Pasha and M. Zarifi, had been largely speculating in land in Thessaly, having purchased considerable Crown estates on the chance of their being included within the new Greek frontier, as they believed that they would then increase in value. However, His Majesty added, the Council of Ministers had already, in pursuance of his orders, considered the Greek question, and had submitted to him its decision on the subject, in the shape of a "Mazbata," for his sanction. He was taking the matter into the most serious consideration; but before deciding upon it he had to satisfy himself that by making concessions to Greece he would assure to Turkey peace and tranquillity hereafter in her border provinces. It would be useless for him to make considerable territorial sacrifices if they were only to encourage Greece to redouble her intrigues in order to obtain more. What he desired was a permanent settlement of this question and security for the future. As he could not trust to any Power but England to obtain this for him, he would gladly be guided by the advice of Her Majesty's Government. His Majesty, therefore, begged me to communicate what he had said to me to your Lordship, and to ask you to inform him confidentially through me, whether, in the event of Turkey acceding to a rectification of the Greek frontiers, he could reckon upon the support of Her Majesty's Government in obtaining some kind of guarantee that Greece would not hereafter seek further extension of territory, and engage in fomenting troubles and disorders in the neighbouring Turkish provinces, in order to bring it about.

I replied that some such guarantee might possibly be obtained for him by England and the other Powers; but that it appeared to me that the best guarantee would consist in the good Government of those provinces, and in the contentment and prosperity of their populations. If this could be secured by the reforms which His Majesty had pledged himself to introduce into his Empire, and by a liberal and enlightened administration, the inhabitants of Thessaly and Epirus would have no wish to place themselves under the rule of Greece, and Greek intrigues would have little or no effect upon them.

I then pressed upon His Majesty the great importance of coming to some definite decision as to the extent of the concessions which Turkey could make to Greece, and I promised His Majesty that if he would inform me, in the strictest confidence, of the frontier-line which he would be prepared to accept, I would submit it to your Lordship with a view to obtaining the support of Her Majesty's Government for it, should the proposal appear to them fair and reasonable.

I understood His Majesty to say that he would direct his Ministers to take this matter into consideration, and to come to some decision as to the frontier-line which Turkey could concede; but I am not certain whether His Majesty meant that he would do so at once, or whether he would wait until I had communicated to him the answer from your Lordship to his question as to whether he could hope for a guarantee against any future demands on the part of Greece for a further extension of territory.

In concluding the conversation, His Majesty observed that he was exceedingly

anxious to see the lines of Tchataldja entirely completed and armed, and that he had given orders about them to all the high military authorities accordingly. His Majesty added that he was greatly satisfied with Baker Pasha's services in connection with them, but that he had learnt with great regret that there was so much misery of all kinds amongst his troops, and that they were exposed to so much privation in consequence of the state of the Treasury, that nothing but the severe consequences of insubordination could induce them to work on the fortification of the lines.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 634.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 1426.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 17, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram No. 1000 of the 14th instant, the Roumanian Minister informs me that he has communicated to the Grand Vizier the request of the Roumanian Government, that the British and Turkish members of the Danubian Commission should be instructed to support the proposal that the Captains of the Ports (or Harbour Masters) of the places within the jurisdiction of the Commission, including Sulina, should be dependent upon the territorial Power to whom the execution of the measures adopted by the Commission is confided, viz., Roumania. M. Bratiano states that His Highness promised to give instructions at once to the Turkish Commissioner in this sense.

M. Bratiano appears to have told the Grand Vizier that I was personally favourable to this arrangement, but that as the British member of the Commission was not under my orders, I could not interfere. He must have misunderstood me, as when he spoke to me on the subject I expressed no opinion upon it, not being sufficiently acquainted with the matter to have one, but merely told him that I would refer it to Her Majesty's Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD

No. 635.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 1427.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 17, 1878.

ALEXANDRE (CARATHÉODORY) PASHA has been named Governor-General of the Island of Crete. The selection was made by the Sultan himself, and I think that, under the circumstances, it is as good a one as possible. Safvet Pasha had proposed the appointment to Musurus Pasha, and had thought of Photiades Bey. Neither of them have, I believe, much administrative experience, and they would scarcely have been equal to the difficult task of introducing the new Organic Law into the island. Mr. Saudwith was inclined to believe that the best course would have been to retain Costaki Pasha (Adossides) as Vali; but Safvet Pasha is under the impression that he is unpopular with the Mussulman party, and that it would be impolitic not to conciliate that party when concessions of so liberal a character had been made to the Christians. Nicolaki Pasha, who was also recommended by Mr. Saudwith, was not considered by Safvet Pasha to have sufficient rank or position to receive so high and important a post. His Highness, however, entertains a high opinion of Nicolaki Pasha's loyalty and capacity.

Ghazi Ahmed Mukhtar Pasha, and a certain Mussulman party in Crete, wished Sawas Pasha, the late Governor of the Archipelago, to be named Governor of the Island, and Safvet Pasha was at one time disposed to agree to their recommendation. But I succeeded in preventing an appointment which, Mr Saudwith informed me, would be very unpopular with the Christians.

It is to be hoped that the administrative capacity which Caratheodory Pasha undoubtedly possesses, his knowledge of affairs, and the high offices he has held, and the

influence which he enjoys at the Porte, will enable him to carry out the new Organic Law to the satisfaction of the Christian population, and to restore tranquillity, order, and prosperity to the island. I have warned him of the difficulties which he will have to encounter from the opposition and intrigues of those whose interest it is to make the experiment fail, and of those who have hitherto succeeded, by their evil influence, in promoting discord and hostility between the Christian and Mussulman populations. I shall request Mr. Sandwith to place himself in unreserved communication with Carathéodory Pasha, and to give him the benefit of his experience and advice.

I may mention that Carathéodory Pasha at first refused to accept the Governorship of Crete, as he was under the impression that he was labouring under the Sultan's displeasure for not having sufficiently supported the interests of Turkey at Berlin, and that the post was given to him to remove him from Constantinople. However, His Majesty invited him to the Palace, and offered the appointment in so gracious a manner that he at once accepted it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 636.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1129. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 17, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translation of the Report addressed to the Grand Vizier by Ali Bey, one of the Commissioners sent by the Porte to effect the peaceable surrender of Batoum to Russia, on his return from his mission, which he and his associate, Nihat Pasha, successfully accomplished. Your lordship will perceive that Ali Pasha accuses Dervish Pasha, who was in command at Batoum, of throwing serious difficulties in the way of the Commission, and even hints that the Pasha was playing into the hands of Russia. Dervish Pasha has the reputation of being a very corrupt man.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 636.

Report on Last Emigration.

(Traduction.)
A son Altesse le Grand Vizir,

EN conformité de l'ordre verbal de votre Excellence je m'empresse de lui soumettre le Rapport suivant concernant le mode dans lequel j'ai rempli ma mission à Batoum, les difficultés auxquelles furent soumis les habitants qui devaient émigrer et les mesures dont l'adoption fut crue nécessaire.

Mode d'Apaisement des Habitants.—Par suite de la décision du Congrès de Berlin, confirmé par un Iradé de Sa Majesté le Sultan, l'évacuation de Batoum et l'abandon de cette place étant devenus nécessaires, j'entrepris d'abord, me conformant à cet effet à l'ordre télégraphique de votre Altesse, en date du $\frac{6}{18}$ Août, d'apaiser les habitants qui avaient pris les armes contre les Russes.

En attendant le Commandant de la place, son Excellence Dervish Pacha, soit parce qu'il avait cru qu'en fusillant quelques-uns des Chefs et des notables parmi les habitants il en calmerait l'effervescence existante, soit parce qu'il avait quelqu'autre motif, fit savoir et insinua secrètement par le canal du Chef de bataillon, Suleïman Aga et du gendarme Battal Aga, aux habitants de Sivana et Idjaré, ainsi qu'à ceux qui avaient formé des rassemblements du côté de la montagne, comme quoi, d'après un avis qui aurait été donné par moi, les Russes viendraient d'abord par mer à Batoum et prendraient possession de la côte, et qu'ainsi les habitants qui s'étaient rassemblés en armes dans l'intérieur ne pouvant les repousser et faire face à l'invasion, seraient réduits à mettre bas les armes. Là-dessus les habitants, qui n'étant déjà pas en bonne intelligence avec le Commandant Pacha se défiaient de lui, durent naturellement à la réception de l'avis sus-énoncé retirer aussi de moi leur confiance et télégraphier à son Excellence le Vali de Trébizonde de se rendre à Batoum. En même temps ils descendirent eux-mêmes à un endroit nommé Eski, à une distance d'une demi-heure de Batoum, en vue d'opposer l'invasion Russe qui leur était annoncée. Aussitôt que le Commandant Pacha eût réussi par cette manœuvre à attirer les habitants jusqu'au susdit endroit, il adressa à votre Altesse un très-long télégramme en date du $\frac{7}{19}$ Août dernier par lequel il exposait que l'écume de la population marcherait sur Batoum avec l'intention de piller les munitions de la garnison, et il demandait la permission de la repousser par la force et de faire fusiller les Chefs qui seraient pris vivants.

Cependant, bien qu'il en ait reçu l'autorisation à cet égard, comme le mouvement en avant fait par les habitants n'avaient d'autre but que celui de repousser l'invasion annoncée, il n'en est résulté ni le pillage de Batoum ni la répression projetée par le Commandant Pacha. Indépendamment de cela, le Gouverneur de Trébizonde étant arrivé dans l'intervalle fit venir les notables parmi les habitants et les ayant rassurés, l'effervescence en fut calmée sans effusion de sang, et l'explication fut en même temps obtenue de leur rapprochement à Batoum. Il est de mon devoir de déclarer ici que ce résultat est dû aux mesures sages adoptées par le Gouverneur-Général ainsi qu'aux efforts déployés tant par lui que par Tchorouksouli Aafi Pacha et Osman Pacha, son frère, et Akif Effendi, Comptrôleur-Général de Batoum, et qu'à cette occasion il fut constaté d'une manière irrécusable que le Commandant Pacha, ayant envoyé des messages aux habitants pour les engager à la résistance, en leur disant que l'époque de cueillir le fruit de la révolte et de l'effervescence était arrivée.

Mode de l'Evacuation et de la Consignation de Batoum.—Le point de l'affaire ayant été reglé je me rendis à Kutais le $\frac{1}{13}$ Avril, 1878, et après les pourparlers nécessaires avec les Commissaires Russes pour l'évacuation de la ville de Batoum et de ses dépendances, les points rapportés par télégramme en date du $\frac{21 \text{ Août}}{2 \text{ Septembre}}$ ayant été reglés, il fut procédé à l'évacuation et à la reddition d'abord du district du Tchorouksou et ensuite de Sourhazer et de Sivana et plus tard des points stratégiques de Djaio. Enfin les Russes ont pu entrer à Batoum le 25 Août, 1878. La division de Batoum était composée de 27 bataillons de troupes régulières, et de 40 (*sic*) bataillons d'irrégulières de Tchorouksou, ayant environ 110 canons et une quantité considérable de munitions, dont le transport demandait beaucoup de temps. Cependant comme j'avais été prévenu par un télégramme de votre Altesse en date du 17 Juillet, que Batoum allait être remis aux Russes, et que par des dépêches subséquentes j'avais été informé que l'entrée des Russes à Batoum au 25 Août était décidée, l'intervalle entre ces dates a suffi pour l'évacuation de la place; et malgré les difficultés de tout genre soulevées par Dervish Pacha, vaincues par le zèle et les efforts constants du Commandant de Marine, Asrif Pacha, les $\frac{95}{100}$ des troupes, des canons, et des munitions furent transportés à Trébizonde. Ce qui n'avait pas été encore transporté à l'entrée des Russes ce n'était que quelques affûts de canon et une partie de provisions dont le transport fut effectué ensuite dans l'espace de six jours. Les fils télégraphiques, en conformité de la Convention de Koutais ci-dessus mentionnés, furent évalués et laissés sur place pour qu'ils soient achetés par les Russes. Quant aux édifices publics j'en dressais l'inventaire et je les remis aux Agents Russes pour qu'ils les mettent en vente, et comme il ne me restait plus rien à faire à Batoum, je partis pour Trébizonde le 21 Août, 1878.

Question de l'Emigration.—Le nombre des familles qui ont emigré à Trébizonde par le moyen des bateaux qui transportaient les munitions de Batoum est environ 700. En dehors de cela une quantité considérable d'habitants ont émigré soit par mer avec leurs effets, soit par terre du district de Hossa, réputé être la nouvelle frontière vers Atené, Darboni, et Rizé.

Votre Altesse n'ignore point que les émigrés de Batoum ayant sous les yeux les malheurs des ceux de la Roumélie, n'ont pas pu d'abord se décider à émigrer, et préférèrent de recourir aux armes dans l'espoir d'arracher leur pays des mains des Russes. Ce qui a pu principalement les tranquilliser ce fut la promesse de leur faciliter les moyens d'émigration, attendu qu'il leur fut donné à comprendre que pendant le terme fixé de trois ans ils seraient à même de vendre convenablement leurs propriétés, de fixer eux-mêmes l'époque de leur émigration, et de choisir à loisir l'endroit où ils désiraient s'établir, en envoyant préalablement des hommes pour examiner la localité qui serait disponible à cet effet; que non-seulement il était avantageux pour les habitants d'émigrer ainsi graduellement et sans presse, mais qu'ils épargneraient ainsi de grands embarras aux autorités locales, et les mettraient à même de donner aux émigrés l'hospitalité qui convient à la dignité du Gouvernement Impérial, et que la Sublime Porte se propose d'entretenir pendant le terme des trois ans des Commissaires soit à Batoum soit à Sivana et Idjaré pour faciliter les moyens d'émigration. En vue de corroborer les assurances ainsi données une Commission d'Emigration fut formée

et laissée à Batoum; de même que pour les 700 familles que avaient émigré à Trébizonde le Gouverneur-Général de cette province fit tout ce qu'il a pu pour subvenir à leur subsistance, et prépara des localités pour leur établissement définitivement. Malheureusement, après la reddition de Batoum, il s'est produit des circonstances de nature à mettre obstacle à l'émigration. Les habitants susnommés faisant partie de la troupe irrégulière, le Commandeur, Dervish Pasha, leur fit savoir que pour le réglement des salaires de la division de Batoum, il y aura un appel nominal, et que ceux qui ne répondent pas et qui ne font pas acte de présence seront privés de leur salaire. Cette mesure a fait que ceux des émigrés qui allaient être envoyés aux localités désignées pour eux dûrent rester à Trébizonde pour faire acte de présence, et quelques-uns même furent obligés de retourner à Batoum pour régler leurs comptes avec leurs compagnons qui s'y trouvaient encore. Or, ceci fit soupçonner aux habitants de Batoum que le Gouvernement Impérial n'est pas en état de prendre soin même d'un petit nombre d'émigrés. Independamment de ce qui précède, après l'abandonnement de Batoum et la retraite de la flotte, tout moyen de transport venant à manquer, il était nécessaire d'entretenir comme par le passé entre Batoum et Trébizonde le service des paquebots-poste Ottomans. Cependant son Excellence Dervish s'y est opposé. D'un autre côté les Beys de Lazistan reçurent l'information que les terres dont ils percevaient certaines redevances, qui s'appellent "yourlou" et "odjalu," ayant passé aux Russes, le Gouvernement Impérial ne leur paierait plus leurs redevances, et que ceux de ces notables qui resteraient sur place en seraient compensés par le Gouvernement Russe. Ajoutez à cela qui Dervish Pasha, le jour où nous devions quitter Batoum, a dit en ma présence au Commandant-Général Russe que la plupart des titres de propriété des habitants sont nuls et faux. Il est vrai que je fis observer immédiatement que ceux qui sont enregistrés ne sauraient qu'être valables, cependant les Russes en ayant conçu les soupçons empêchèrent tout achat et vente de propriété jusqu'à ce que registre de Batoum soit détaché du registre général du vilayet et envoyé à cette ville. Je demande maintenant la permission de soumettre à la haute appréciation de votre Altesse les mesures que je crois propres, en vertu de l'expérience locale que j'ai acquise, à écarter les causes qui, en demandant la promesse du Gouvernement, ont empêché et découragé l'émigration :—

1. Que les comptes du contingent de Batoum soient réglés par le vilayet de Trébizonde, que les registres qui doivent se trouver dans la comptabilité de la division de Batoum en soient remis pour cela au Gouvernement du susdit vilayet, et qu'il soit défendu à Dervish Pasha de s'immiscer à cette affaire.

2. Que les Commissaires annoncés pour Batoum, Sivana, et Idjaré y soient envoyés en toute hâte, et que si l'on doit passer outre à cette mesure, que l'on nomme au moins à Batoum, un Consul capable et actif.

3. Que les paquebots Ottomans continuent une fois par semaine à faire leurs voyages à Batoum, qu'ils acceptent le transport gratuit des émigrés.

4. Que des caïques soient nolisés pour la transport des émigrés sur la côte qui est entre Batoum et Trébizonde, ou bien que l'on fournisse à ceux-ci le nolis de leur transport.

5. Que vu la fidélité séculaire des habitants de Batoum et la valeur avec laquelle ils ont toujours defendu et protégé la frontière, qu'attendu aussi que la plupart d'entre eux furent ruinés eux et leurs familles, le Gouvernement Impérial maintienne les émoluments de ceux des notables qui se trouvent parmi les émigrés. Cela serait un échantillon de générosité et munificence impartial pour ceux des Chefs qui sont irrésolus, et qui restent au pays ayant égard aux promesses Russes.

6. Qu'un petit bateau du Gouvernement soit stationné à Trébizonde pour être envoyé le cas échéant à Batoum, et transporté des émigrés sur la côte en dehors des paquebots.

En cas que les mesures proposées rencontrent la haute sanction de votre Altesse, je me permettrai de suggérer qu'elles soient prises avant l'arrivée de la mauvaise saison, afin que ceux des Musulmans qui désirent émigrer et qui ne savent quelle voie suivre en soient rassurés avant dupés par les promesses Russes.

Le 17 Novembre, 1878.

No. 637.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1430.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 17*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of the telegram received by the Roumanian Minister at the Porte from his Government respecting the demands of Russia for a right of road and other concessions in the Dobrudscha, the substance of which was communicated to me yesterday verbally by M. Bratiano and transmitted to your Lordship by my telegram No. 1006.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 637.

M. Ristich to M. Bratiano.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Russie met en avant toute sorte de prétextes pour ne pas nous livrer Dobroudja; elle exige à faire avec nous immédiatement et avant la prise en possession de Dobroudja un arrangement spécial dont les conditions sont inadmissibles, car elle veut être autorisée à y conserver et construire batteries, routes militaires, débarcadères, &c.

Notre Gouvernement a répondu que Dobroudja étant maintenant territoire Roumain, tout ce que nous pouvons concéder à la Russie, c'est d'étendre à la Dobroudja les effets de la Convention existant entre la Russie et la Roumanie pour le reste du pays, et cela bien entendu seulement pour le temps prévu par le Traité de Berlin; la Russie fait des difficultés pour accepter cette unique concession qu'on peut lui faire. La Direction du Chemin de Fer Bender-Galatz a reçu ordre de tenir prêt des trains journaliers pour le transport d'un nouveau corps d'armée destiné à passer par Dobroudja, mais ce transport n'a pas encore commencé.

No. 638.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1433.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 18*, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a statement taken from the semi-official news paper, the "Turquie," relating to the alleged treatment of the Mussulmans by the Bulgarians in the district of Islimié.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 638.

Extract from "La Turquie" of November 8, 1878.

NOUS avons souvent rappelé cette vérité que les Russes en se substituant aux Turcs à la suite de la guerre dans l'administration des contrées situées au delà et en deçà des Balkans devaient y assurer la sécurité sous peine d'endosser une grave responsabilité On a beau répondre que l'autorité Russe ne pouvant tout surveiller et tout voir est impuissante contre les excès auxquels les Bulgares s'livrent. Cet argument ne vaut pas. Il n'est pas de police au monde, personne ne l'ignore, qui soit mieux informée que la police Russe et qui soit plus experte dans l'art de faire respecter l'autorité. Si donc des excès sont commis dans les pays occupés on est naturellement amené à cette conclusion que l'autorité Russe les tolère et que les sévices exercés par les Bulgares contre les Musulmans sont un des moyens de sa politique.

Nous recevons précisément de ces contrées des détails navrants sur les mauvais traitements infligés aux Musulmans. Cinq cents d'entre eux qui sont rentrés à Islimié avec leurs femmes et leurs enfants ont trouvé leurs maisons détruites. Ils se

sont adressés à l'autorité locale. Le nommé Antonaki, Bulgare et Juge d'Isimlié, leur a fait le plus mauvais accueil et les a menacés publiquement de la vengeance de ces compatriotes. Deux cents de ces infortunés qui n'ont nul moyen d'existence meurent littéralement de faim.

Un riche Arménien, Manouk Agha, qui habite dans le caza, touché de compassion, leur a fait des distributions de blé. Les Bulgares pour punir cet homme de ces sentiments d'humanité se sont introduits dans sa maison, lui ont volé 65,000 piastres, ont emmené tous ses bestiaux et enlevé 1,300 kilés de céréales que Manouk Agha conservait en dépôt dans sa ferme située au village d'Atli-Oghlou. Ces mêmes Bulgares ont fait emprisonner le fils de Manouk Agha en alléguant que ce jeune homme aurait des antécédents criminels, ce qui est faux.

Plusieurs jeunes gens Musulmans de la ville ont été jetés en prison parce qu'ils auraient autrefois témoigné contre des membres de comités révolutionnaires Bulgare, Deux de ces jeunes gens sont menacés d'une condamnation à la peine capitale, bien que tout le caza les proclame innocents, Kambour Oglou Ismaïl et Gumudji Oglou Bekir. Le nommé Yaya Khodja, en prison depuis quelque temps, a succombé aux blessures qu'on lui avait faites en le frappant à coups de sabre.

Les réfugiés lorsqu'ils arrivent aux stations de Hermanly ou de Yamboli sont fouillés par les employés Russes parce que, disent ces employés, l'autorité indemnisera les réfugiés au cas où ils seraient dévalisés.

Et en effet ces malheureux sont régulièrement dévalisés dès qu'ils sont entrés dans l'intérieur du pays, mais il n'est nullement question d'indemnité. C'est ainsi que les Bulgares ont volé 100 livres en or au nommé Hadji Mehemet Emin Agha.

Tels sont les faits qui se passent dans les pays administrés par les Russes. Le devoir de tout publiciste impartial est de les signaler à l'indignation publique, ce que nous faisons.

No. 639.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 1435.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 18, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of a telegram addressed by the Mutessarif of Teckfour Dagh (Rodosto) to the Grand Vizier, a copy of which has been given to me by his Highness, relating to the proceedings of the Russians at Hiréboli. If the statements it contains are trustworthy, the Russian troops appear to be advancing from the positions they have recently occupied near Lulé Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 639.

The Mutessarif of Teckfour Dagh (Rodosto) to the Grand Vizier.

(Traduction.)
(Télégraphique.)

IL a été communiqué à la date du $\frac{2}{14}$ Novembre que, d'après le Caïmacam de Hiréboli, le Colonel de Cavalerie Russe qui se trouve là-bas aurait dit que dans quelques jours il partiraient et qu'à leur place viendraient deux régiments de cavalerie.

La lettre du Caïmacam du susdit district, arrivée le $\frac{8}{20}$ Novembre, dit en résumé:—

"Hier trois officiers Russes sont arrivés ici avec une quarantaine de cavaliers et ont dit que leur nombre s'élèverait bientôt à 1,000.

"Ils ont pris note des maisons et ont demandé du fourrage et du bois. Ils ont donné à leurs chevaux le fourrage des quelques bêtes qui restent encore aux habitants; il les ont même fait sortir des écuries, de sorte que celles-là aussi seront perdues.

"Le bois se trouvant à une distance de dix heures et dans un endroit dangereux, personne n'a osé y aller.

"Comme ceux qui doivent arriver logeront dans les familles, les habitants craignant qu'il ne se produise quelque malheur, se préparent à émigrer, et malgré tous les conseils qui leur sont donnés, ils expliquent qu'au moment de la victoire il n'est

pas venu autant de soldats, c'est pourquoi ils ont pu les supporter et rester chez eux; mais que maintenant un grand nombre devant venir, ils sont forcés d'émigrer."

S'il est entendu que les troupes Russes devront séjourner encore quelque temps à Hiréboli, les habitants demandent qu'on les réduise tout au plus à deux escadrons. Et en effet, il est prouvé que cette petite ville n'est pas en état de loger et de supporter autant de cavalerie. La demande des habitants est par conséquent fondée. J'attends les ordres de votre Altesse pour leur envoyer une réponse.

Le Mutessarif de Teckfour Dagh,
(Signé) ALDI.

No. 640.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 1436. Secret.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 18, 1878.

I HAD occasion to call this morning on Raouf Pasha, the Grand Master of the Artillery, and a Member of the Cabinet, who, your Lordship may remember, was sent by the Sultan to St. Petersburgh to exchange the ratifications of the Treaty of San Stefano. In the course of conversation, his Excellency observed that he had learnt with the greatest pain that he had been accused of having Russian sympathies, and of advocating a policy in the interest of Russia. He was most anxious, he said, to remove this impression from my mind, if it existed. He had not even called upon Prince Labanoff during the summer, although M. Onou had constantly come to him invite him to see the Prince at Buyukdéré.

So long as the Russian Ambassador was in the country, Raouf Pasha observed, there was an excuse for keeping away from the Russian Embassy, but now that the Prince had moved to Pera, this excuse no longer existed, and he had called on Prince Labanoff the day before.

Raouf Pasha then said that he would tell me, in strict secrecy, what had passed on the occasion. Prince Labanoff began by reproaching him for not having called before. He then spoke in terms of much warmth of the conduct of the Sultan and his Ministers, who, he declared, were showing a mistrust of Russia which could not but be very offensive to the Emperor. It was evident, his Excellency observed, that Turkey had thrown herself entirely into the arms of England, and only listened to the counsels of the British Ambassador. In following this course she was committing a very grave error, which might have the most serious consequences for her. Russia was near, England was far off. Russia had at that moment an army of 200,000 men to the south of the Danube. Turkey must remember that she was not yet at peace with Russia. The Emperor had proclaimed to his people the commencement of the war; he had not yet announced to them the conclusion of peace. The present relations between Russia and Turkey were, therefore, only those of an armed truce, and would continue so until the Porte acceded to the legitimate demands of Russia by concluding with her a definitive Treaty of Peace.

Prince Labanoff expressed surprise and anger at the steps which had been taken by the Porte to complete and fortify the lines of Buyuk-Tchekmedjé. He declared it to be a direct provocation to Russia. Did Turkey, the Prince asked, believe that with these lines she could, even with the aid of England, withstand Russia in case of war? If she desired to retain what she had, and to remain an independent Power, her only policy was to enter into the most cordial and intimate relations with Russia. Her alliance with England could only end in her complete ruin. Could the Sultan rely upon his army? It was now completely demoralized. Officers of the highest rank were constantly coming to him secretly to assure him that they were entirely in the interest of Russia, and some of those who had been made prisoners were asking him for employment in the Russian service. The Turkish soldiers had been so well treated in Russia that they could not but contrast their condition whilst captives with that of their comrades serving in the Turkish ranks. They were proving to their countrymen the advantage of accepting the friendship of Russia, and he (Prince Labanoff) was convinced that, even if the Porte were so reckless and ill-advised as to enter upon another war with Russia, it would find that the army would refuse to fight against her.

Such is the general substance of the language which Raouf Pasha told me Prince Labanoff had held to him. I have little doubt that the Pasha accurately

reported it. I have reason to believe that the Prince has expressed himself in similar terms to others. His Excellency has frequently stated that the army which Russia now has on this side of the Danube, the greater part to the south of the Balkans, consists of 200,000 men. He has said this to Safvet Pasha. I venture to think that he exaggerates the number considerably and designedly. From all the information that I can obtain it would appear not to exceed 130,000 or 140,000. It is, however, true that the Bulgarian troops raised by Russia, and now under Russian officers, must be added to it. It is very probable that Prince Labanoff is seeking to intimidate the Porte by leading it to believe that the Russian army in the Balkan Peninsula is much larger than it really is.

There is, no doubt, truth in what Prince Labanoff stated as to the kind of "propagandism" in favour of Russia, which some of the returned Turkish prisoners are carrying on amongst the troops, and in the country. The Russian Government had latterly treated their prisoners of war with kindness, and those who have recently been sent back to Turkey had been well fed and even well supplied with clothing. This has been good policy. The Turkish soldiers, without pay, food, or clothing, cannot but contrast their own miserable condition with that of their comrades who have come from Russia. On the other hand, the more intelligent of them, and especially the officers, know that of the 123,000 prisoners said to have been made by Russia, only about 53,000 survive, and that the remainder succumbed to the shocking ill-treatment and neglect to which they were exposed during the war. The manner in which those who were taken at Plevna were treated can scarcely be forgotten by Turkey.

Raouf Pasha admitted that there was great discontent in the army, and that desertions were taking place on a very large scale. He attributed them to the want of money, which prevented the Porte from properly feeding and clothing the troops. With a sum equal to three Turkish lira for each soldier, his Excellency is convinced that the army could be fully provided for during the next six months, and could be again placed in an efficient state. It cannot be concealed that at the present moment its condition is deplorable, and such as to cause the most serious anxiety to the Turkish Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 641.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 1437.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 19, 1878.

WHEN I saw Safvet Pasha yesterday at his usual reception, he read me a letter from Assim Pasha, one of the Turkish members of the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, stating that he had not submitted the Firman granting the new Organic Law to Crete to the Commission, as he had been instructed to do, as, on showing the draft of it to some of its members, he found that the British and Austrian Commissioners insisted upon the right of discussing and approving every article in it. The French Commissioner, Assim Pasha added, had not expressed any opinion on the subject. I advised his Highness very strongly to direct Assim Pasha to obey his instructions without further delay, and to leave the Commissioners to criticise and discuss the Firman as they might think proper. I informed his Highness that I had learnt from Her Majesty's Consul in Crete that much disappointment and dissatisfaction were already being felt in the island at the non-arrival of the Firman, which I earnestly recommended his Highness to send in charge of the new Governor-General as soon as possible after Assim Pasha had submitted it to the Commission.

His Highness acted at once upon my advice, and sent orders by telegraph to the Turkish Commissioners to communicate the document officially to their colleagues. Carathéodory Pasha will leave as soon as this has been done.

It is most desirable that no time should be lost in putting the Firman into execution, and in introducing the new Organic Law into Crete. It would be most unfortunate if an arrangement which had been come to after so much labour, and after overcoming so many difficulties, and which is acceptable to all parties, and especially to the Christians of the island, should at the last moment be upset because the

European Commission, which can have no knowledge of the wants or condition of the Cretan populations, should insist upon having any alterations made in it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 642.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 28.)

(No. 1438.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November* 19, 1878.

I RECEIVED a telegram this morning from Consul Blunt informing me that the Governor-General of Salonica was employing Bashi-Bazouks, not only against Bulgarian insurgents, but in police service generally, and that the Commander-in-chief was averse to this measure, as likely to prove an abundant source of trouble, and as unnecessary, as there were sufficient regular troops in the province.

I beg to inclose copy of Mr. Blunt's telegram.

I immediately sent Sir Alfred Sandison to make the strongest representation to Safvet Pasha on the subject, and to point out to his Highness the serious consequences that might ensue from the employment of these irregular troops if any massacre or ill-treatment of Christians were to ensue. His Highness seemed to think it very hard that the Porte should be called upon to allow the Mussulman population to be massacred and outraged without permitting it to defend itself. The so-called Bashi-Bazouks, he maintained, were for the most part the Mussulman inhabitants of the villages who took up arms in self-defence, and to protect their wives, children, and property from wanton and unprovoked attacks by the Bulgarians. The Bulgarians had now Bashi-Bazouks, who, under that very name, were plundering and murdering the Mussulmans; but because they were Christians Europe did not interfere or complain. He could not, he must confess, understand the difference thus made between Christians and Mahommedans.

Safvet Pasha, however, ended by saying that he would send immediate orders to the Governor of Salonica not to employ Bashi-Bazouks, and if it were absolutely necessary, as his Highness believed it was, to arm the Mussulman inhabitants to resist the invasion of the Bulgarians, to give them a different name, and to enrol them under officers of the regular army, who could maintain some kind of discipline among them.

It is certainly difficult to make the Turks understand why bands of Christian Bulgarians should be permitted to outrage, ravish, plunder, and destroy with impunity whilst Europe condemns the employment of Bashi-Bazouks by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 642.

Consul Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Larissa, November* 18, 1878.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL of Salonica is employing Bashi-Bazouks not only against Bulgarian insurgents, but in police service generally. Commander-in-chief here, whose command includes Pashalic of Salonica, is averse to this measure, which we both consider will prove an abundant source of trouble. There are forty battalions in Province of Salonica, twenty-four of which in disturbed districts, a force Commander-in-chief considers sufficient for present emergency. He has telegraphed to Porte in above sense, and has asked me to represent matter confidentially to your Excellency, as he thinks Governor-General of Salonica is acting very imprudently. Too much care cannot be taken not to give pretext to Greeks in Macedonia to make common cause with Bulgarian insurgents.

No. 643.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1430.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 19, 1878.*

ACTING upon the authority conveyed to me in your Lordship's telegram of the 18th, I have requested Captain Murray to proceed to Gallipoli for the purpose of keeping Her Majesty's Government informed of the state of affairs at the lines of Bulair, and of the movements of the Russian troops. I beg to inclose copy of the instructions that I have given to that officer.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 643.

Sir A. H. Layard to Captain Murray.

Sir, *Therapia, November 19, 1878.*

COLONEL HOME having been good enough to allow me to avail myself of your services during his absence, I have to request you to proceed, with as little delay as possible, to Gallipoli. Your duty there will be to keep me fully informed as to the state of the lines of Bulair, especially with reference to the number and condition of the Turkish troops stationed in them for their defence. You will endeavour to obtain and send me accurate and trustworthy information as to the positions and movements of the Russian forces. It has been reported to me that they have recently reoccupied some of the Turkish territory that they had previously evacuated, especially in the direction of Hireboli, and that there is evidence of an intention on the part of the Russian military authorities to make a further forward movement towards the lines of Tchataldja. It is of much importance that I should receive accurate information upon this subject for transmission to Her Majesty's Government, and the earliest notice of any such movement, should you have reason to believe that it is about to be commenced or is in contemplation.

According to a Report from Admiral Sir E. Commerell, which has been shown to you, the Turkish troops that have been sent to occupy the country evacuated by the Russian army are so dispersed in small bodies, without proper means of communication, that they might easily be surrounded and captured by the Russians in the event of a renewal of hostilities.

I am informed upon high authority that this danger has now been perceived by the Turkish War Department, and that orders have been sent to the military authorities at Gallipoli to withdraw the infantry to within the lines of Bulair, and to replace it by cavalry. I should be glad to learn from you whether these orders have been carried out.

I should be very glad to receive from you any Reports which you may be willing to address to me with reference to the condition of the district of Gallipoli, and especially as regards the relations between the Christians and Mussulmans, and the treatment of the former by the latter.

It is desirable that you should place yourself in communication with the senior officer in command of Her Majesty's ships stationed off Gallipoli, and that you should report to him, without delay, any matter of importance which may come to your knowledge with reference to the movements of the Russian troops.

I am, &c

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 644.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1441. Secret.)

My Lord, *Therapia, November 19, 1878.*

THE Sultan, knowing that I should be at the Porte yesterday, as the Grand Vizier receives the Diplomatic Body every Monday, sent one of his Chamberlains there

to ask me to dine with him, as he was very anxious to speak with me on some important and pressing matters. I accordingly went up to Gildiz. His Majesty, on receiving me before dinner, said that he was very desirous of consulting me as to the measures that he should take in consequence of the reoccupation by the Russians of some of his territory that they had previously evacuated. Information had reached him that they had again taken possession of the town of Hiréboli, which they had previously handed over to the Turkish authorities, sending there a considerable body of troops. As a forward movement had been made at the same time on the neutral zone which it had been agreed should divide the two armies, he could not but be under the impression that the Russians intended to provoke a conflict, and to renew the war with Turkey. Under these circumstances it was of the utmost importance that he should know what course Her Majesty's Government would take in the event of Russia making an unprovoked attack upon him. I had informed him, His Majesty went on to say, that if Russia did not execute the Treaty of Berlin, and commence the evacuation of Eastern Roumelia on the 3rd May, England would be prepared to join with him, even to the extent of using force, in compelling her to do so. He himself was exerting himself to the utmost to carry out the Treaty of Berlin in every particular, and he was convinced that within even a few days the only stipulation which remained to be performed, the surrender of Podgoritza and Sputz, would be executed. His Majesty consequently requested me, very urgently, to ask Her Majesty's Government whether, in the event of Russia renewing the war without sufficient excuse before the 3rd May, he might expect any timely material assistance from England. It was essential, His Majesty observed, that he should be made acquainted with the intentions of England in this respect, as upon the measures which he would have to take might depend the very existence of his Empire. He earnestly begged me to lose no time in submitting his request for this information to your Lordship, and in acquainting him with your Lordship's answer when it arrived.

I replied to His Majesty that in face of the distinct assurances given by the Emperor of Russia to Her Majesty's Government that he intended to carry out scrupulously and loyally the Treaty of Berlin, and was determined to maintain peace, I could scarcely believe that Russia had any intention of attacking Turkey and renewing the war without cause. At the same time it was no doubt prudent for him to be prepared for any attack that might be made upon him; but the utmost care should be taken to avoid giving any provocation to Russia, or affording her any pretext whatever for recommencing hostilities.

His Majesty answered that it was his firm intention not to give the Russians any cause for quarrelling with him. He had issued, he said, the strictest injunctions that his troops should be withdrawn at once wherever the Russians advanced, even in violation of their engagements, to reoccupy territory which they had previously evacuated. He could not do more. But the Russian army might thus creep on, whilst he was yielding for the sake of preserving peace, until it was in the occupation of the Tchataldja and Bulair lines. Where was this mutual advance and retreat to end? His Majesty earnestly begged me to tell him what, in my opinion, he should do. His Majesty added that the French Ambassador, at his last audience, had stated it as his opinion that the Russians intended to renew the war, and were making all the necessary preparations for a winter campaign.

I replied that I could not express an opinion upon so grave a matter as that submitted to me by His Majesty, without having first consulted and received instructions from Her Majesty's Government. I would report to your Lordship what His Majesty had said, and would communicate your Lordship's reply as soon as I received it.

His Majesty still pressing me to say whether in the event of Russia attempting a *coup de main* on Constantinople I thought that he might expect assistance, and of what nature, from England, I observed that I could only point to the fact that Her Majesty's Government had ordered up Her Majesty's fleet to the neighbourhood of the capital and to that of Bulair when they were threatened, and that they had announced their intention of not withdrawing it from the Sea of Marmora until the Russian forces had retired, in pursuance of the Treaty of Berlin, within the limits of Eastern Roumelia. His Majesty answered that, although he attached the highest importance to the presence of the British fleet, it alone would not be sufficient to preserve his capital from a Russian attack.

The conversation thus far took place between His Majesty and myself before dinner, only Hairedin Pasha and Sir Alfred Sandison being present. After dinner His Majesty invited us into his retiring room, together with the Grand Vizier, the

Ministers of War and Marine, the Grand Master of the Artillery (Raouf Pasha), Ghazi Osman Pasha, and Tefik Pasha, the Engineer of Plevna. His Majesty again expressed to me his belief that Russia intended to provoke Turkey to war, and that it was her intention to reoccupy the lines of Tchataldja, and even to attempt a *coup de main* on Constantinople. He directed Osman Pasha to communicate to me the information that he had received confirmatory of these apprehensions.

Osman Pasha then stated that, three days before, the Russians had returned to Hiréboli, which they had previously evacuated and given over to Turkey, with two regiments of cavalry and one battery of artillery. They had at the same time made a forward movement in the direction of Media and Viza, advancing into the zone which had been declared to be neutral between the two armies. The Commander-in-chief said that, in order to avoid a collision, he had given the strictest orders that the Turkish outposts should be withdrawn whenever the Russians advanced, although that advance might be in violation of solemn engagements, or of the Treaty. But that this state of things could not continue without extreme danger to peace, as there must be a point at which the Russians could no longer be permitted to push back the Turkish troops, who would be under the necessity of resisting.

I asked Osman Pasha whether he was certain of his facts, as he might have been misinformed as to the advance of the Russian troops, and, if it were true that the Russians were returning to the territory they had previously evacuated, whether they assigned any reason for doing so.

His Excellency replied that he had received trustworthy reports as to the Russian movements from the Turkish authorities, and that the pretext put forward in one instance, that of Hiréboli, by the Russians, was that it was necessary for them to return to protect the Bulgarians, which he declared to be a perfectly futile one, as there were no disorders in the country, nor were any to be apprehended. In other cases the Russian military authorities had offered no explanation whatever.

The Sultan then said that in view of the communication I had made to him with respect to the determination of England to unite with him in compelling Russia to evacuate Eastern Roumelia, and in view of the danger which might exist at the present moment, he thought it his duty to make a candid statement to Her Majesty's Government as to his military position, and as to the resources that were left to him for the defence of his Empire. His Majesty went on to say, referring to his Minister of War and to Osman Pasha to corroborate his statements, that he had now 80,000 men for the defence of Constantinople and the lines of Buyuk-Tchekmedjé and 15,000 for the lines of Bulaïr. But that in case of a renewal of war to make the capital perfectly secure, an army of 80,000 men would be necessary with 30,000 men for a reserve, and that the Gallipoli Peninsula would require an army of 30,000 men with a reserve of 10,000. In his Asiatic territories he would have to maintain 140,000 men, with 50,000 men for a reserve, whilst the troops necessary for Thessaly, Epirus, and Macedonia (60,000 men) would render it requisite for him to have an army of altogether 400,000 men. His Majesty added that 100,000 men might be raised within a month's notice. He gave me a paper, a translation of which I inclose, which, he said, contained a full statement of the present military position.

His Majesty then, with the aid of a map, explained to me the works that were being carried on under Baker Pasha, of whom he spoke in high terms of approval, to complete the lines of Buyuk-Tchekmedjé, and to put them into a thorough state of defence. His Majesty said that he had been greatly deceived by those who had pretended to fortify these lines before the war. An enormous amount of money had been thrown away upon them; the work had been so badly done that it was already falling to pieces, and small earthworks, which he described, for which 100*l.* had been charged, only really cost 15*l.*

A long conversation followed, in which the Ministers and Osman and Tefik Pashas took part, as to the necessity of placing the lines of Buyuk-Tchekmedjé and Bulaïr in a complete state of defence.

The Sultan appeared to be well acquainted with the subject, and described how the natural features of the country about Tchataldja enabled an impregnable line of fortifications to be constructed at comparatively small labour and expense.

I availed myself of this opportunity to mention that Admiral Sir E. Commerell had only found 10,000 at Bulaïr, 3,000 being absent cutting wood near Lampsaki, and the remainder scattered about in the country evacuated by the Russians, in small bodies, without proper means of communication with each other, and without having received any orders how to act in case of emergency. They might thus, I pointed out, easily

fall into the hands of the Russians in the event of a sudden renewal of hostilities, and a sufficient force would not then be left for the defence of the lines of Bulaïr.

Osman Pasha said that he had already been informed of Sir E. Commerell's Report, and had given orders to the military authorities at Gallipoli to call in at once the infantry, and to replace it by cavalry which he had sent from Constantinople for the purpose.

Before the close of my interview with the Sultan I again most earnestly represented to His Majesty the importance of executing in all particulars the Treaty of Berlin, and of coming to an understanding with Austria and Greece. I added that, in my opinion, his present policy should be to be ready for any emergency, but to avoid with the utmost care affording any pretext whatever to Russia to throw the responsibility of a renewal of war upon Turkey. His Majesty entirely acquiesced in my remarks, and referred to the exhausted state of his Empire as the best proof that he could adduce as to his sincere desire for tranquillity and peace.

Although His Majesty did not directly state that he made the communications to me above referred to with a view to ascertain whether in the event of war he could expect pecuniary assistance from England in order to enable him to raise his army to the necessary strength, and to maintain it, I have no doubt that his object was to sound Her Majesty's Government on the subject.

I telegraphed to your Lordship, very shortly, the substance of what passed with the Sultan after my return at night to the Embassy, expressing, at the same time, a hope that your Lordship would instruct me as to the reply that I should give to His Majesty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 644.

Force Nécessaire.

(Traduction.)

		Hommes.
Sous les armes—		
Tchataldja		80,000
Boulair		30,000
Réserve pour ces deux points		40,000
		150,000
Côté d'Uskub		60,000
En Asie		140,000
Réserve pour l'Asie		50,000
		400,000
Actuellement sous les armes		186,000
Hommes encore nécessaires		214,000
Actuellement sous les armes—		
A Constantinople et ses environs—		
Tchataldja et Boulair		100,000
Du côté de Cossova		28,000
Du côté de Salonique (approximativement)		20,000
En Asie		38,000
		186,000
En Crète		16,673
En Thessalie		22,270
A Yéni Chekir		20,000
En Albanie		13,358
A Bagdad		11,104
Au Yemen		—
		83,414

Se trouvent aujourd'hui sous les armes dans l'Empire Ottoman—

186,000	hommes.
83,414	"
269,414	

No. 645.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1442.)

Therapia, November 19, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE to bring to your Lordship's notice a further despatch from Acting Consul Calvert, containing sickening details of the orgies of cruelty and lust in which the Bulgarians are indulging at the expense of the unhappy Mussulmans under Russian protection. Mr. Calvert gives several instances which can be verified if desired.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 645.

Acting Consul Calvert to Sir A. H. Layard.

Adrianople, November 16, 1878.

Sir,

I REGRET to inform your Excellency that since my last despatch, of the 16th ultimo, on the subject of the repatriated Turkish refugees, there has been no improvement in the condition of these unfortunate people. I continue from time to time to receive accounts of the state of things in various parts of the country, mostly from the mouths of eye-witnesses and sufferers, and I proceed here to record such further cases as have come to my knowledge.

Khalfa-Kioï is a village formerly containing 120 Turkish and 10 Bulgarian houses, and situated two hours from the village and railway station of Karabunar, on the Yamboli line. All the Mussulman inhabitants abandoned their homes on the approach of the Russian army. About the 10th September last, ninety-six of the fugitive families returned to their homes, provided with passports from Adrianople. Each family on quitting the village had taken with them a cart and a pair of oxen, abandoning the rest of their live stock and the bulk of their property. On their return, deeming it unsafe to trust themselves to the road, they came by rail, and consigned their cattle to the care of some Christians known to them, and who undertook to deliver the animals at Khalfa-Kioï. The Turks never saw their cattle or their Christian friends again. Their houses had been burnt in their absence, and they had to build themselves huts. Their Bulgarian fellow-villagers, as usual, disregarded the mock order to deliver to the Turkish owners one-half of the crops sown by the latter, and allotted to the refugees instead a bushel and a-half of grain per family. Many were obliged to sell the remnants of their belongings, besides hiring themselves out as farm-labourers to the Bulgarians in order to gain a living. They were not, however, actively molested until the 12th ultimo, when a party of seven Bulgarians, two of them being inhabitants of the same village and the others from Karapelit, one hour and a-half distant, broke into the hut of a Turkish widow and robbed her of her money, 4,000 piastres, a silver girdle, and other articles of value. The Turkish villagers having assembled on hearing the disturbance, the Bulgarians attacked them, and when the Turks endeavoured to defend themselves with sticks, stones, &c., they opened fire, and killed one of the Turks and badly wounded four others. They then retired. The villagers reported the circumstances to the authorities at Mustafa Pasha, who had the wounded men conveyed to that place and sent some policemen, under a Bulgarian captain, to Khalfa-Kioï. These arrested two of the Bulgarians from Karapelit and took them to Mustafa Pasha. Two nights afterwards five more Bulgarians, all from Karapelit, made another descent on Khalfa-Kioï. This time the Turks had been warned by some friendly neighbours of the intended attack, and most of them withdrew from the village. The men who remained, some twenty-five in number, were seized, bound, and severely beaten. The Bulgarians then thoroughly sacked all the huts, and carrying off four women and one girl to the banks of a stream close by, outraged them there. Two days later again, the Turks being warned that another attack was to take place that night, the whole of them, men, women, and children, fled to the neighbouring woods, leaving everything behind. The last I have heard of these poor people is that they had taken refuge at the Bulgarian village of Koyounli, three hours from Karabunar.

Gölemen is a Turkish village two hours on this side of Yamboli, and formerly

inhabited by sixty or seventy families. All had abandoned their homes, but forty families returned by rail about the middle of August. On their arrival at the Yamboli railway station the Bulgarians insulted and threatened them. A Russian officer then took them to a camp close by where they received soup, bread, &c. Through the intercession of this officer they received 1 piastre a-day per head from the municipality at Yamboli during three days, at the end of which time they were sent to their village under an escort of Bulgarian gendarmes.

Some Bulgarians from Akbunar, in the district of Yeni-Zaghra, had installed themselves there, and they refused to admit the Turks, so that the latter had to return to Yamboli next day. There they remained, bivouacking on the banks of the Tundja for the space of twenty-two days without rations or aid of any kind. At length they received from the authorities at Slimia (Gölemen being within that district) a document authorizing them to go again to their homes, and entitling them to receive in grain the double of what they had sown.

On presenting themselves at the village the Bulgarian squatters refused to let them enter their houses, and but grudgingly allowed them shelter in stables and outhouses. The order to give them grain was disregarded, and when they asked for bread the Bulgarians replied, "Earn your bread." The Turks then set to work and gained their bread by reaping and threshing their own crops for the benefit of their Bulgarian masters. These meanwhile daily robbed their labourers of their cooking utensils, bedding, clothes, &c. This lasted during forty-five days. One day seven or eight other Turkish families arrived by road, bringing with them carts and twelve pairs of oxen.

These were forthwith seized by the Bulgarians. Afterwards a Turkish woman was wounded in her house by some Bulgarians who were endeavouring to extort money from her, and at last the Turks, having formally represented to the tchorbadjis their readiness to depart, the latter told them that they, the Turks, had better do so. That same night the Bulgarians wound up their course of ill-treatment by robbing the Turks of whatever they had left, and by outraging their women. Next day they put the whole party into carts and reconveyed them to the railway station, whence they were brought on to Adrianople.

Khidirdja is, or rather was, a Turkish village of thirty families, one hour distant from the railway station of Pavlo-Kivi (on the Constantinople line, beyond Ozoun-Keupry. On the approach of the Russians last January the inhabitants took refuge at Ozoun-Keupry and Khaireboli. About six weeks ago they returned to their village. It was visited one day by a party of five or six mounted gendarmes from Rodosto, who carried off a quantity of grain and whatever they had a fancy for. Some days later, on the 27th ultimo, a second party of thirty men, some mounted and some on foot, and wearing Greek and Armenian dresses, presented themselves at Khidirdja. They began by making the men and women assemble in two separate straw-barns, and then proceeded to carry off all the cattle and grain, and to search and pillage every house, completely gutting the place. One of the Turks, named Hilmi, aged 22, attempting to escape, was pursued, overtaken, and dispatched with clubs and yataghans, "like a snake," as my informant described it. One Tchakirogli Hussein and his wife, well-to-do persons, were tortured by the pressing of a heated iron trevet on their heads, and 9 liv. were thus obtained from them. The daughter-in-law of this couple was moreover carried off, and nothing has been heard of her since. Two or three other women were outraged.

On the retreat of the band, the inhabitants of Khidirdja took refuge at the Pavlo-Kioï railway station. In answer to the petition presented to the authorities at Adrianople by the head-men of the village, the latter were told that "the authorities had no gendarmes to send to Khidirdja." The inhabitants are now dispersed, and the village is occupied by Bulgarians. Hussein and his wife are still under medical treatment.

Smavli is a village situated one hour from the railway between Tirnova and Karabunar, on the Yamboli line. It originally contained fifty Turkish and fourteen Bulgarian families. The former had abandoned their homes; forty families returned about the beginning of September. They found the village partly destroyed, including the mosque and school house. The Bulgarians refused to allow them to occupy the remaining houses, and put them, as usual, into stables and outhouses. They had lost all their live stock, and had to work as farm servants to the Bulgarians. They were at first allowed out of their own crops only 10 bushels of mixed barley and oats for the whole forty families; but afterwards, at the intervention of the tithe collector from Mustafa Pasha, a quarter of a bushel of barley and the same quantity of oats per

head was given. One night, about a month after the return of the refugees, a party of Bulgarians (whom, as it was dark, they could not identify) made a descent on the village and stripped the inhabitants of their money, the women's silver belts and necklaces, and other property. The visit was repeated on the 28th ultimo, when the work of plunder was carried out in a more complete and searching manner, with threats of death in order to extort money. No outrages on women were committed, however, on either occasion. On the day following the last attack the Turks consulted the Bulgarian tchorbadji, who was well-disposed towards them, as to what they should do. He answered, "Neighbours, what can I say? I cannot protect you." They thereupon left their homes in a body, carrying with them only a coverlet for each person. They embarked in rafts, and descending the Maritza, landed on the third night at an island about half-a-mile below Mustafa Pasha. There they were suddenly assailed and fired upon by a band of Bulgarians. Four persons were wounded, namely, a woman, the wife of Hussèinoglu Salih, in the arm and stomach, a man, Mehmedoglu Omer, in the knee, another, Salihoglu Redjeb, in the lower abdomen, and another, Khalilogln Omer (one of my informants), through the shoulder. The woman and the two first named men are seriously injured. They are in hospital here. The Bulgarians departed after stripping the unfortunate and already twice-robbed refugees, who thereupon made the best of their way to Adrianople.

As regards the repatriated Turks at Karabunar, whose case was reported upon in my despatches to your Excellency of the 21st September and 16th ultimo, there is so far an improvement in their condition that no further outrages on women have taken place. They continue, however, to be otherwise subjected to the same oppression as before. Every night some Turkish house is visited by parties of Bulgarians, who beat the inmates in the hope of extorting whatever concealed money may yet have escaped their rapacity. Two men, named Pehlivan and Bakkal Mustafa, have been of late the special objects of this kind of persecution. About ten days ago a party of gendarmes arrived from Mustafa Pasha under the command of a Bulgarian officer, who, on the information given by the Turks, arrested a certain Bulgarian of Obroukli. Property plundered from Karabunar was found in his house, and he was conducted to Mustafa Pasha; but the Bulgarians made a point of showing their sense of the true value of this solitary demonstration of severity, by speaking of it with ridicule, and behaving as before.

The only essentially new feature in the above-mentioned cases is the actual arrest at last of Bulgarian offenders; two out of seven in the instance of Khafa-Kioï, and one out of many scores in that of Karabunar. Although, as I have before had occasion to point out, there have been occasional instances of Greek culprits being arrested, there are only one or two precedents for the arrest of Bulgarians, so far as I have been able to ascertain by diligent inquiries put to Russian officials and others. The circumstance is therefore worthy of note, and it suggests two reflections.

In the first place, the scene of the excesses, in both the cases in question, lies within the limits of Eastern Roumelia. The unusual activity shown in regard to them may, therefore, not unreasonably be ascribed to the advent of the Commission for the organization of that province. This supposition is strengthened by contrast with the signal denial of justice in the peculiarly aggravated case of Khidirdja, which place, lying between this and Constantinople, is beyond the scope of the Commission. Secondly, in the face of the contemptuous indifference shown by fellow-offenders, it is difficult to believe that the arrests in question were anything but an empty show, known to be such by those on whom they would otherwise have acted as a deterrent. Nor is this view weakened by the fact that even Greek evil-doers, a comparatively less favoured class, although sometimes arrested, are never punished; and, especially, that the gendarmes who arrested the offenders came from, and conducted the latter to, Mustafa Pasha, the Bulgarian Chief of the Police at which place has distinguished himself by even worse misdeeds than those for which the arrests were made, as will be found on reference to my despatch of the 16th ultimo.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND CALVERT.

No. 646.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November 28.*)

(No. 1443. Very Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of a Report made to me, at my request, by Sir Alfred Sandison, of a conversation with a person who is in the confidence of the Sultan, whom I believe to be thoroughly trustworthy, and who is well-affected to the interests of England. His observations with regard to the danger of Turkey falling entirely under the influence of Russia are, therefore, not undeserving of the consideration of Her Majesty's Government. I have frequently stated my conviction to your Lordship, that the Sultan is animated with an earnest desire to maintain the most friendly and intimate relations with England, and that he looks to her as affording him the only hope of preserving his Empire from the aggressive and ambitious designs of Russia, against whom he entertains a strong personal feeling of hostility.

There is, however, a powerful party in the country opposed to the influence of England, which is working in the interests of Russia. It is encouraged with great activity and ability by the Russian Embassy, which can employ means to promote Russian interests that unfortunately few Turkish officials can resist. So long, however, as the Sultan continues in his present convictions, I have no great fear of the result of Russian bribery or intrigues. But should the Turks be brought to believe that an alliance with us is only a source of danger to their country, and that they cannot hope for any substantial and material assistance from us against the designs of Russia, the Sultan will not be able to resist the pressure that will be brought to bear upon him, and he will end by thinking that he has much more to hope from the friendship of Russia than from that of England.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 646.

Sir A. Sandison to Sir A. H. Layard

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Therapia, November 19, 1878.*

I LATELY had a conversation with one of the high officials of the Palace which may be worth reporting to your Excellency. The personage I mean is sufficiently known to your Excellency as enjoying the full confidence of the Sultan, and as being generally very silent on the subject of politics. In the present instance, however, he spoke out very freely when I happened to mention to him the efforts that were likely to be made by Russia hereafter with a view of counteracting British influence, and of establishing her own supremacy in Turkey.

His Excellency said, that bearing in mind all the misfortunes which have befallen Turkey for having perhaps reckoned too much on the delusive hope that England, which was then making serious preparation for war, might come to the rescue of her old friend and ally rather than allow the collapse of nearly half the Empire, he could not deny, he said, the existence of what is called a "Russian party" in the country, whose object is to promote the policy best suited to the views of the Russian Government. He did not, of course, attach much importance to it at the present moment, but it would be as well to remember, he observed, that if Turkey is to continue to remain at the mercy of Russia, without the sure prospect of real and effectual assistance and protection from England in the hour of danger, not only would the party in question become all powerful, but that there would, moreover, be a unanimous disposition in the country to throw itself entirely into the arms of Russia, as the only means left to it for ensuring its future safety and existence. People already begin to argue, he said, that it is idle to hope for future national existence by being constantly within the reach of so formidable a Power and enemy, but which might, on the other hand, give peace and security to Turkey more than any other nation in existence the moment she (Turkey) yielded to the necessity of placing herself under the immediate protection of Russia. The very idea of it was naturally repugnant to his own feelings, as well as to those of almost all his countrymen; but he was bound to confess at the same time, that any lukewarmness or half-measures on the part of England at any future critical juncture must necessarily drive Turkey to the alternative of seeking the alliance and protection

of Russia, which would spare no effort, he thought, of putting an end to all extension of British influence in the East for the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. SANDISON.

No. 647.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1444. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 20, 1878.*

THE Council of Ministers having met to discuss the demand of the Russian Ambassador, that a definitive Treaty of Peace should be signed between Turkey and Russia before the withdrawal of the Russian army from the Turkish territories it now occupies, Musurus Pasha was invited to attend. I have received, confidentially, a copy of the opinion which his Excellency gave in writing, and I have the honour to transmit it to your Lordship.

His arguments in support of the view, that the Treaty of Berlin is a definitive Treaty of Peace, and that no further Treaty is required, are, it appears to me, well founded. It seems to have exercised considerable influence on the Council.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 647.

Opinion sur la Question de savoir si le Traité de Berlin est le Traité de Paix définitive tenant lieu de celui qui devait suivre le Traité de Paix Préliminaire signé à San Stéfano.

LA réponse à cette question ne peut être qu'affirmative. On a attribué au Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg l'intention de prolonger l'occupation de la Turquie d'Europe et de la Turquie d'Asie, sous prétexte que, comme le Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano avait stipulé que l'évacuation complète par l'armée Russe de la Turquie d'Europe et de la Turquie d'Asie aurait lieu respectivement dans l'espace de trois et de six mois après la conclusion de la paix définitive entre Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, il s'ensuivait que, aussi longtemps que ces deux Puissances n'auraient pas signé un acte ayant le caractère de Traité de Paix définitive, et comprenant certains points du Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano, lesquels n'ont pas été mentionnés dans les stipulations du Traité de Berlin, la Russie aurait le droit de ne pas se considérer comme étant en état de paix définitive avec la Sublime Porte, et, par conséquent, tenue d'évacuer le territoire Ottoman situé en dehors des limites de la Bulgarie et de la Roumélie Orientale, pour lesquels un terme a été fixé par le Traité de Berlin.

Ceux qui attribuent au Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg une telle intention et une telle argumentation oublient, sans doute, que le Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano, contrairement à l'attente de ses négociateurs, a dû être soumis, dans sa totalité, à l'examen et à la révision des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Paris, et que le Traité de Berlin constitue la conclusion de la paix définitive, non-seulement entre Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan et Sa Majesté l'Empereur de Russie, mais aussi entre ces deux Souverains et les autres Puissances Signataires du Traité de Paris.

Pour démontrer ce fait il suffit de rappeler ici qu'à la séance du 24 Juin du Congrès de Berlin, à propos de la discussion sur la durée de l'occupation de la Principauté de Bulgarie, occupation limitée par le Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano à un terme approximatif de deux années, le Premier Plénipotentiaire d'Autriche-Hongrie a proposé que cette occupation fût fixée à six mois à dater de la conclusion de la paix définitive. Or, ce terme ayant été ensuite augmenté de trois mois, le deuxième paragraphe de l'Article XXII du Traité de Berlin a été rédigé en ces termes :—

"La durée de l'occupation de la Roumélie Orientale et de la Bulgarie par les troupes Impériales Russes est fixée à neuf mois à dater de l'échange des ratifications du présent Traité."

N'est-il pas clair que la substitution des mots "à dater de l'échange des ratifications du présent Traité" aux mots "à dater de la conclusion de la paix définitive" constate que le Traité de Berlin est le Traité de Paix définitive, et que les Puissances ont tenu à rendre par là impossible toute ambiguité sur ce point?

On pourrait citer un autre exemple, donnant également le caractère de Traité de Paix au Traité de Berlin.

Le Congrès, à sa séance du 26 Juin, a adopté un paragraphe relatif à la Commission Européenne chargée d'élaborer l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale, paragraphe ainsi conçu :—

"Immédiatement après la conclusion de la paix une Commission Européenne sera instituée pour l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale."

Or, ce paragraphe fait l'objet de l'Article XVIII du Traité de Berlin, rédigé comme il suit :—

"Immédiatement après l'échange des ratifications du présent Traité une Commission Européenne sera formée pour élaborer, d'accord avec la Porte Ottomane, l'organisation de la Roumélie Orientale."

Nous nous abstiendrons de multiplier les citations, et de faire, en outre, valoir d'autres arguments.

Ainsi donc, le Traité de Berlin étant le Traité de Paix définitive, et les stipulations du Traité de San Stéfano, qui n'ont pas été modifiées par le Traité de Berlin, étant restées valides et obligatoires pour les deux Parties Contractantes, il s'ensuit que le terme de la cessation de l'occupation Russe est pour la Turquie d'Europe de trois mois, pour la Roumélie Orientale et la Bulgarie de neuf mois, pour la Roumanie d'une année, et pour la Turquie d'Asie de six mois, à dater de l'échange des ratifications du Traité de Berlin.

Quant à certains points du Traité Préliminaire de San Stéfano qui n'ont pas été modifiés ni par le Traité ni par les Protocoles du Congrès de Berlin, et auxquels on prétendrait attribuer un caractère préliminaire et non définitif, par cela seul qu'ils n'ont pas été l'objet des discussions du Congrès, ces points, faisant partie d'un Traité soumis, dans sa totalité, à l'examen et à la révision des Puissances, restent obligatoires pour la Sublime Porte autant que pour la Russie, et ont acquis eux-mêmes, après la conclusion de la paix définitive, une validité également définitive. Toutefois, rien n'empêche que les deux Gouvernements leur accordent, s'ils le jugent à propos par un consentement commun et à titre de pure formalité, ce caractère définitif au moyen d'un échange de notes ou autrement. Mais il ne suit pas d'une telle formalité qu'il soit besoin de la conclusion d'un Traité de Paix définitive, car une telle prétention enlèverait au Traité de Berlin son principal caractère, et ni la Sublime Porte ni la Russie ne sauraient mettre en avant cette prétention sans paraître vouloir porter atteinte aux droits des autres Puissances Signataires de ce même Traité.

Quoiqu'il en soit, comme le terme de trois mois fixé pour l'évacuation du territoire de la Turquie d'Europe non compris dans les limites de la Roumélie Orientale et de la Bulgarie, s'est écoulé sans que l'évacuation de ce territoire eût eu lieu, et comme il est possible que ce manque d'exécution des stipulations du Traité de Berlin soit l'effet des intentions et des argumentations qu'on se plaît à attribuer au Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, il est de la plus haute importance pour prévenir à temps toute équivoque à cet égard, ainsi que des complications sérieuses dans l'avenir, que le Gouvernement Impérial invite, sans perte de temps, les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à se prononcer sur cette question afin qu'elle soit décidée définitivement et le plus tôt possible.

No. 648.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1445.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 20, 1878.*

THE Japanese ship of war "Seiki," for whose passage through the Dardanelles I obtained a Firman from the Porte, arrived some days ago in the Golden Horn. Her Captain, accompanied by some of his officers, called upon me, and I returned his visit. I had an opportunity of speaking about this ship, the first Japanese vessel that had appeared in Turkish waters, to the Sultan and the Grand Vizier, and suggested that it would, I felt sure, be very agreeable to the Mikado if His Majesty would graciously receive the Commander. His Majesty at once expressed his desire to do so, and

Captain Inowye, with three of his officers, were invited to Yeldiz, where they had yesterday an audience of His Majesty, who conferred decorations upon them.

The Captain seems to have been much pleased with his reception, and sent some of his officers to-day to Therapia to thank me for having enabled him to pay his respects to the Sultan and to the Grand Vizier. He leaves Constantinople this afternoon for Japan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 649.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1448.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 21, 1878.*

BY Imperial Decree Arif Pasha, who lately held a command at Batoum, has been named Vali and Commander-in-chief of the Province of Scutari, thus replacing Hussein Pasha, whom the Sultan promised me he would recall, because he was suspected of throwing difficulties in the way of the surrender of Podgoritza and Spuz, and of encouraging the Albanian league.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 650.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1449.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose translations of three "Masbatas," or declarations, from the Turkish, Armenian, and Greek communities in the district of Rodosto, stating that on the withdrawal of the Russian troops no excesses were committed by the Mussulmans upon the Christian inhabitants. These documents have been forwarded to me in consequence of the inquiries made, at my request, by Captain Ardagh on this subject, the result of which was reported by your Lordship in my despatch No. of the

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 650.

Declaration by the Turkish Community in the District of Rodosto.

(Traduction.)

LES Russes qui se trouvaient dans le district de Rodosto depuis huit mois sont partis et les fonctionnaires du Gouvernement Ottoman sont arrivés le 18 Septembre par bateau spécial. Nous attendions tous le retour des autorités Ottomanes avec anxiété, et sommes très-heureux de les voir parmi nous. Les Russes sont partis le 20 du même mois, et le lendemain les troupes Turques se sont dispersées dans différentes directions pour prendre possession du pays et maintenir l'ordre, ce qui a mis fin aux incendies, assassinats, et autres crimes qui se commettaient avant leur arrivée. La tranquillité étant rétablie nous avons pu reprendre nos occupations habituelles et nous en remercions Sa Majesté le Sultan.

Ayant entendu dire que quelques malveillants ont publié à Constantinople que des villages Chrétiens ont été brûlés et des gens assassinés, nous donnons le démenti le plus formel à toutes ces calomnies dont on nous accuse, et nous sommons ceux qui vont colrir ces bruits de nous les prouver, car depuis le retour des autorités Turques rien de pareil ne s'est passé. Ces faits se sont produits pendant le séjour des Russes, où plus d'un village Musulman a été détruit ou rasé et plus d'un Turc tourmenté. A

leur départ les Bulgares de Tchorlou, Midhat, et d'ailleurs ont émigrés, et plusieurs d'entre eux sont partis en devant beaucoup d'argent à des Musulmans.

Le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, 1878. (Suivent les signatures en Turc.)

Inclosure 2 in No. 650.

Declaration by the Greek Community in the District of Rodosto.

(Traduction.)
A son Excellence le Mutessarif de Rodosto.

L'AMBASSADE d'Angleterre ayant envoyé ici Mr. Ardagh pour s'informer depuis le retour des autorités Ottomanes il y a eu des villages Chrétiens brûlés par les Turcs, et si les Chrétiens ont été molestés par la population Musulmane, nous délivrons la présente déclaration en réponse aux questions que nous à posées son Excellence le Mutessarif, par laquelle nous attestons qu'il ne s'est produit aucun fait de ce genre.

Le $\frac{6}{18}$ Octobre, 1878. (Suivent les signatures en Grec.)

Inclosure 3 in No. 650.

Declaration by the Armenian Community in the District of Rodosto.

(Traduction.)
Au Mutessarif du Sandjak de Rodosto,

NOUS adressons la présente attestation pour faire savoir au Capitaine Ardagh, Envoyé d'Angleterre, que depuis que le Sandjak de Rodosto que nous habitons a été restitué aux autorités Ottomanes par les Russes, aucun village Chrétien du district n'a été brûlé par les Turcs; que nous n'avons entendu parler d'aucun méfait à la charge de la population Musulmane, et que celle-ci n'a exercé jusqu'ici envers la communauté Arménienne aucune tyrannie ou injustice ni commis le moindre outrage.

(Suivent des signatures du Président et des Membres du Conseil de la Communauté Arménienne.)

Le $\frac{5}{17}$ Octobre, 1878.

No. 651.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1450.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 21, 1878.*

I REQUESTED Her Majesty's Consul at Scutari, some days ago, to inform me confidentially whether he could suggest any steps that could be taken by the Porte to effect the peaceable surrender of Podgoritza and Spuz.

Mr. Kirby Green has replied that the only possible way of effecting it would be by a change of commanders, and by replacing the troops now at Scutari by an overwhelming force of from thirty to forty battalions not belonging to the 3rd Army Corps. Even then, he says, perhaps serious conflicts would occur between the troops and the natives.

It would, of course, be almost impossible for the Porte to do, under present circumstances, what Mr. Kirby Green recommends, even if it were necessary that it should, which, I trust, it is not. But I have thought it desirable to bring his answer to me to your Lordship's notice, in order that you may judge of the difficulties with which the Turkish Government has to contend in carrying out the stipulation of the Treaty of Berlin as regards the Montenegrin frontiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 652.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1451.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of reports from the British Vice-Consuls at Gallipoli and Rodosto, announcing that Russian troops have reoccupied Hairebolí.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 652.

Vice-Consul Odoni to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Gallipoli, le 19 Novembre,* 1878.

J'AI l'honneur de vous informer que son Excellence Hadji Réchid Pasha, Commandant-en-chef du Camp de Boulaïr, a reçu un télégramme du Colonel commandant les détachements de Malgara et Kessan l'informant que 2,000 Cosaques avec six canons de campagne ont pris possession de Hairabol.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) A. ODONI.

Inclosure 2 in No. 652.

Vice-Consul Dussi to Consul-General Fawcett.

(Extrait.) *Rodosto, le 19 Novembre,* 1878.

JE profite de cette occasion pour vous prier d'informer son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur que 800 cavaliers Russes et une batterie d'artillerie sont descendus d'Andrinople à Hairabol et que 800 cavaliers et de l'infanterie y sont attendus. D'autre part il me revient que les Russes concentrent de nombreuses troupes à Dimotika et Ouzoun Keupru.

No. 653.

Sir A. H. Layard to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 1454.)
My Lord, *Therapia, November 22, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose copies of despatches upon matters of interest in their respective districts, which I have received from Her Majesty's Vice-Consuls at Bourgas and Varna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 653.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Bourgas, November 13,* 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that about three days since M. Dimetri Bracaloff, the Bulgarian Governor of Achialo, was summoned to Kirk-Kilissé by telegraph to assist the Boundary Commissioners in their work of delimitation.

M. Bracaloff owns a large portion of land known by the name of "Horoslar," about which there was a question of title raised, and which was still undecided during the Ottoman rule.

This estate of Horoslar is by the boundary line cut in two, part of it remaining in Eastern Roumelia, and part in the territory subject only to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. According to a very widespread report, Horoslar is full of cattle stolen from

Turkish villages, and if this opinion is true, it will explain the presence of M. Bracaloff amongst the Commissioners, as his interest will naturally be to change the line.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 653.

Vice-Consul Dalziel to Consul-General Palgrave.

Sir, *Varna, November 16,* 1878.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that the Russian authorities of this place have sent emissaries into all the villages of this district to inquire into their condition, including population in the cases of Christian villages, with the object of enrolling soldiers.

I have become possessed of some of the particulars ascertained in regard to Mahommedan villages which may be interesting at the present time: for instance, six villages, which are full of soldiers, contained before the war 247 households; they now contain 104 households.

Eight villages, in which there are no soldiers, contained before the war 106 households; they now contain 105 households.

The total number of oxen and horses now possessed by the 104 households is about 216; by the 105 households is about 250, both numbers being vastly below their average possessions formerly. Anything eatable, such as eggs, fowls, &c., cannot be got at all in these villages, and the people seem to exist upon porridge made of wheat-meal. They don't complain of the Russian soldiers touching their women, but they do complain that whenever a Russian wants to light a fire he seizes upon the first thing handy, be it a cart or the roof of a house, instead of cutting wood in the forests, of which there is no want in this country.

I am informed, on good authority, that in all the Greek villages in the district of Kavarna, Shabler, &c., there is not now to be found a young man of age to make a soldier, all having fled, although most of the population of old people and women is now resettled.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. DALZIEL.

No. 654.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 238. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 18,* 1878.

I HAVE great pleasure in reporting to your Lordship that the Roumanian Government have decided to reject the overtures of the Russian Cabinet for the conclusion of a fresh military Convention for the passage of troops applicable to the Dobrudscha which they have been so strongly pressed to accept.

They have replied to this proposal by a note which is to be addressed to the Russian Minister at Bucharest, but which has not been delivered yet, and which it was their original intention to communicate confidentially to the Powers.

It appears probable that Russia will desist from further attempts to negotiate on this basis, and that she will allow Roumania to occupy the Dobrudscha on the original conditions stipulated at Berlin.

If so, the new territory will be taken possession of by Prince Charles in the course of the week.

The agreement between England and Austria, which has been apparent from the language held by Count Andrassy to the Roumanian Minister at Pesth, and my own to the Ministers here, has, I have no doubt, contributed considerably to this satisfactory result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 655.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 240. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 20, 1878.*

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my previous telegram, the Roumanian Government has announced to the Russian Minister here its intention to occupy the Dobrudscha, and asking for the names of the Russian Commissioners selected to carry this out.

Baron Stuart, the Russian Minister, has told them that he has referred the matter to his Government, but that his Court has a right to expect some specific arrangement with regard to the passage of troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 656.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 242. Political. Secret.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 21, 1878.*

I HAVE reason to believe that the Russian Court has raised fresh difficulties on the subject of the Dobrudscha.

The Russian Minister contends that some sort of arrangement is absolutely required for regulating the passage of Russian troops across that territory prior to its surrender to Roumania.

Alarming reports have been received by this Government about movements of Russian troops.

I have been asked urgently to telegraph to your Lordship requesting a reply to the following question:—

"Does Her Majesty's Government recommend Roumania to occupy with her troops the 'tracé' marked out by the Delimitation Commission?"

They say that unless they are at liberty to take possession of all the important strategical positions of the Dobrudscha, inclusive of that "tracé," that acquisition would be most precarious and rather a danger and a snare than otherwise.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 657.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 244. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 22, 1878.*

AS I had the honour to report to your Lordship on the 18th instant, the project of a fresh Military Convention between Russia and Roumania has been given up owing to the objections of the latter Government to enter into similar engagements, but thereupon the Russian Minister at this Court has been instructed from Livadia to commence a new discussion by demanding the application of the Convention of the 4th April, 1877, to the Dobrudscha prior to the occupation of the province by Prince Charles.

This Government maintains, very properly, that some of the provisions of that Convention were concluded for a state of war, that they have ceased to have any force by the conclusion of peace, and that for Roumania to be bound by them entirely would be to accept obligations which are partly no longer applicable to the present condition of affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 658.

Mr. White to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 245. Political.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, November 25, 1878.*

THE Roumanian Government has announced its willingness to accept and be bound by a declaration to be made by Russia in accordance with the accompanying text.

Should the Imperial Cabinet signify its consent in time to surrender the Dobrudscha on these terms, Prince Charles will cross the Danube at Ibraïla to-morrow into the new territory; in the contrary case His Royal Highness will open the Chambers on the 27th at Bucharest, and will acquaint, probably, his Parliament with the failure of the negotiations.

The Russian Minister, Baron Stuart, holds out hopes of this arrangement being accepted at Livadia.

This Government says it will accept no other.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 658.

French Text of a Declaration to be made by the Russian Minister at Bucharest, which the Government of Roumania have declared themselves ready to accept as regards the Dobrudscha.

"Le Cabinet Impérial désire que les stipulations qui règlent aujourd'hui le passage de l'armée Russe à travers la Roumanie soient aussi appliquées à la Dobroudja dans celles de leurs dispositions qui ont trait aux communications des troupes Impériales, conformément à l'Article XXII du Traité de Berlin.

No. 659.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Varna, November 20, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Lordship's letter No. 32, dated October 30th, 1878, covering printed copies of a telegram from M. Giers, October 23rd, and a letter written in reply by your Lordship to M. Bartholomei.

I venture to point out that the telegram M. Giers has sent to M. Bartholomei is not in consonance with the facts of the case.

He says:—"Aucun des autres Délégués n'a dans ses instructions une pareille condition." A reference to the first Protocol which accompanied my letter No. 28 of the 27th October, 1878, at the seventh page, will show the correct statement: "Les Commissaires des autres Puissances n'ayant pas d'instructions à cet égard, il est entendu que chacun en référera à son Gouvernement."

The difference between these two extracts is evident.

I may add that my Austrian colleague has received his instructions here, and that he has shown them to me, and that they are couched in terms identical with those contained in your Lordship's letter of the 25th October, 1878, to M. Bartholomei.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 660.

Colonel Home, R.E., to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 34.)
My Lord, *447, Grand Rue de Pera, Peru, November 21, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Commission for the delimitation of the Bulgarian boundaries returned to Constantinople to-day, having completed the boundary between the Dobrudscha and Bulgaria. There remains now but little to be done beyond drawing up the final Report and arranging the Statutes.

Your Lordship's telegram of the 2nd November was delivered to me only yesterday at Varna, after the completion of the work. Having received no instructions as to how the Treaty of Berlin was to be interpreted as regards the Roumanians, I acted on my own responsibility and feelings as to what was likely to be the wishes of Her Majesty's Government. And it has been very gratifying to me to find that the course of action I pursued was in exact accordance with the instructions contained in your Lordship's telegram.

The point east of Silistria has been definitely fixed at 800 metres from the water bastion of the old enciente. The point south of Mangalia has been fixed at 1,200 metres south of the village of Ilanlik.

The boundary between has not yet been quite definitely arranged. But there is no doubt but that, starting from the Danube, it will pass between the Ordov Tabia and the Medjidieh Tabia; will ascend the thalweg of the valley between these two forts; will cross the Varna Road, where it rises on to the plateau; will include the villages of Almanli, Essenkiöj, and Gorliga, rejoining the straight line drawn from the point east of Silistria to that south of Mangalia, somewhere about three miles east of Essenkiöj. Thence, the line will be practically a straight one to the Black Sea.

Your Lordship will observe that the strong position Arul Tabia falls to Roumania. Silistria can thus never be fortified, or used for military purposes by the Bulgarians. I esteem this no small matter.

The Russian Commissioner wished to place the frontier on the Danube at Broso, 25 kilom. east of Silistria, and to embrace Kuzgun in Bulgaria.

In carrying out the work the greatest cordiality prevailed between the Representatives of Germany, Austria, France, Italy, Turkey, and myself; in every case the vote was six against one. This was so often the case, that the Russian Commissioner endeavoured to break through the majority rule laid down in the first Protocol, but was told that the Commission would continue to work without him if he wished to go, and quote the majority clause of the first Protocol as their justification. He, however, subsequently gave way.

The Commission was accompanied by three Roumanian officers and a Mr. Phrebrides, who had been a member of the Roumanian Cabinet.

The sketches were made chiefly by the English officers. But, as Colonel Boguslalow made some remarks on this subject, the charge of the topographical work was placed in the hands of the French Commissioner, Major Le Mayne; there being three English, two Russian, two Turkish, and one Roumanian officer employed. By this arrangement I succeeded in forcing the Russian Commissioner to aid in carrying out a survey of a frontier he objected to, and at the same time gave, what I conceived was absolutely requisite, a European character to the work.

A full Report will be presented to you by the messenger leaving in a week, together with a sketch of the frontier.

Your Lordship will, doubtless, have been surprised at not hearing from me in the course of the work. But I had made arrangements with Mr. White to telegraph to him viâ Kalarash, from whence the Roumanian Government had arranged that all despatches were to be forwarded. Unfortunately, the cypher L, which I have, was recalled from Mr. White, and the consequence has been that my despatches were delayed.

At Kustendje the Russian authorities refused to allow my despatches to be sent in cypher, and I did not feel justified in trusting to their post office.

This will, I trust, explain what must otherwise appear to have been bad arrangement on my part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. HOME.

No. 661.

Count Schouvaloff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

Le 28 Novembre, 1878.

IL est vrai que le Gouvernement Russe insiste sur la signature de la Convention Spéciale avant d'évacuer les localités qui doivent être restituées à la Turquie, mais le Gouvernement Impérial ne cherche pas à introduire dans cette Convention de termes ou de délais nouveaux ni de trois mois ni raccourcis comme pourrait le faire supposer le télégramme de son Excellence Safvet Pacha.

(Signé) SCHOUVALOFF.

No. 662.

Mr. Monson to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pesth, November 27, 1878.*

AUSTRIAN Government does give title of Highness to the Prince of Servia, and sees no objection to Her Majesty's Government doing the same.

No. 663.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopolis, November 27, 1878.*

PRINCE DONDOUKOFF did not stop here yesterday on his way to Sofia, though a triumphal arch had been erected for him. At the station he told Bulgarian deputation, headed by the Metropolitan, to give up agitation, as the Czar was determined to carry out Treaty of Berlin.

No. 664.

Mr. Gould to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 28.)

(Telegraphic.) *Belgrade, November 28, 1878.*

MAJOR WILSON and party arrived here last night. He is anxious to know whether suggestion made in his despatch No. 15 of the 10th instant has been favourably entertained by Her Majesty's Government, otherwise he and Lieutenant Ross will at once return to England.

So little being known as to the state of Albanian and Russian military movements, they would be able to collect much valuable information if permitted to act as proposed.

No. 665.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Siborne.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 28, 1878, 5·25 P.M.*

THE Roumanian Government are endeavouring to obtain the support of the Powers for their claim that the captains of the Ports of the Danube in the Dobrudscha, including Sulina, should depend upon Roumania as the Riverain Power.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that, in accordance with the terms of the Treaty of Berlin making Commission independent of territorial power, the Inspector-General of the Danube and the Captain of the Port of Sulina should be appointed and paid by the Commission.

The appointments in other ports, such as Galatz and Toultcha, might rest with Roumania. If in any case the question lay between a Russian and Roumanian nomination, the Roumanian would be preferable.

Pray take care that the question is not compromised by any hasty decision before it has been thoroughly examined.

No. 666.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878, 5·45 P.M.

TREASURY have decided that you and all your delimitators are to come home except Clarke, who goes to Asiatic frontier, and Murray, who stays with Layard.

I wish you to go round by Cyprus, but will telegraph again on that point.

Please inform Her Majesty's Ambassador of these arrangements from me.

No. 667.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1459.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

I HAVE referred to Her Majesty's Principal Secretary of State for the War Department your Excellency's despatch No. 1321 of the 25th ultimo, and I have now to state to you that I concur with your Excellency in thinking that it is advisable for General Sir C. Dickson to remain attached for the present to Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 668.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1460.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

THE intelligence conveyed in your Excellency's despatch No. 1400, Confidential, of the 11th instant, relative to the intention of the Sultan to appoint Midhat Pasha to be Governor-General of Syria, has been received by Her Majesty's Government with very sincere gratification.

The reports which have reached them as to the unsatisfactory condition of the Administration in that part of His Majesty's dominions, in their opinion, call for the most energetic efforts to remedy the abuses which undoubtedly exist. They trust that the well-known ability of Midhat Pasha will restore order and confidence throughout the province he has been called upon to govern.

Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the propriety of the advice which you propose to offer to his Excellency, that he should endeavour to put into execution in Syria some of the reforms which the Porte has undertaken to introduce into the Asiatic provinces of the Turkish Empire; and they also approve your recommendation to Safvet Pasha that Midhat Pasha should be secured in his present appointment for a tenure of five years.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 669.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 608.) [B.B.]

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

IN Sir H. Drummond Wolff's despatch, a copy of which accompanied my despatch No. 582 of the 16th, and which you were instructed to communicate in copy to the Russian Foreign Office, allusion is made to a story told by a woman named Fatima, belonging to Philippopolis, whose husband had been murdered and herself outraged on the 14th October last.

Further details of the brutal violence committed upon the persons of this woman and her husband are given in a memorial which has been addressed by Fatima to the members of the European Commission now sitting at Philippopolis; and in a statement which she has verbally made to a member of Sir H. D. Wolff's staff, who was deputed by him to inquire personally into the truth of this horrible story.

The evidence obtained indicates that two or three Bulgarian zaptiehs, and a fourth person who it is said was dressed in the Russian uniform, were the perpetrators of the crime.

Copies of the documents above referred to have been sent home by the British Commissioner, and are inclosed herewith for your Excellency's information.

A petition has likewise reached the International Commission from some Turks belonging to the places named in the petition, who, notwithstanding that they find on returning to their villages that their houses are burned and their villages in ruins, have been called on by the Russian authorities to pay a sheep tax.

A copy of this document is likewise transmitted herewith.

I have now to instruct your Excellency to place in the hands of M. de Giers copies of the papers forwarded with this despatch, and in so doing you will express to him the hope of Her Majesty's Government that, as Russia insists upon retaining in her hands the civil Government as part of the military occupation of Eastern Roumelia, the Imperial Government will see that justice is done to the representations of the inhabitants, and that vigorous measures are taken to redress the wrongs complained of, and to severely punish the persons inculpated.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 670.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.

(No. 609.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 940 of the 19th instant, relative to the maltreatment of the British Vice-Consul at Bourgas by some Russian officers, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing the account of the affair which was communicated privately by Mr. Brophy to Sir C. Dickson.[a]

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 671.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord Lyons.

(No. 812. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

THE Marquis d'Harcourt has informed me confidentially that, in a conversation which he had with Count Schouvaloff on the 26th instant, the Count had insisted strongly upon the difficulty which the Russians would have in leaving Roumelia unless some precautions were taken in favour of the Christian population of that country.

In answer to a direct question from M. d'Harcourt as to what he thought could be done, Count Schouvaloff said that he knew only one remedy, namely, a mixed occupation; adding that this was only his personal opinion, and that he did not put it forward in the name of his Government. He believed that a certain party in Russia would look upon it as the worst of expedients, as it would deprive them of all pretext for returning to the evacuated country, or for raising a hue and cry in England and elsewhere.

In reply, I informed M. d'Harcourt that this proposal had been mooted at the

[a] No. 333.

Congress, and that England was quite willing to take her part in such an occupation if it should be resolved upon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 672.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 128.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 102 of the 10th instant, reporting the proceedings of the eighth sitting of the Commission.

I have to express to you my approval of the course taken by you in the discussion on the subject of the Protocol of the previous sitting, and my concurrence in the observations made by you on the subject of certain passages in General Stolepine's letter to the President of the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 673.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 129.) [B.B.]
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 100 of the 7th instant, and I have to convey to you my approval of your language at the sitting of the European Commission of the previous day, on the discussion of Abro Effendi's motion relative to the repatriation of the refugees.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 674.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 130.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

IN reply to your despatch No. 99 of the 7th instant, I have to state to you that the reply returned by you to the delegates of the agricultural population of the districts of Philippopolis and Tatar Bazardjik, who had waited upon with a petition, meets with my entire approval.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 675.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

(No. 131.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

I HAVE to express to you my approval of the steps you have taken to bring to the knowledge of General Stolepine the deplorable condition of the refugees in the Rhodope Balkans, as reported in your despatch No. 110 of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 676.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Consul-General Palgrave.

(No. 10. Political.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 7, Political, Confidential, of the 8th instant, reporting what passed at an interview you had at Sophia, on the 8th instant, with Prince Dondoukoff, as to the intention of the VIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, in respect of the relative positions to be occupied by the Imperial Russian Commissary on the one side, and the Imperial Turkish Commissary, as well as the Consuls delegated *ad hoc* by the other Powers, on the other side.

In reply, I have now to state to you that I approve your language to Prince Dondoukoff as reported in your above-named despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 677.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Colonel Home, R.E.

(No. 46.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

I HAVE informed you this day by telegraph that you should now return to England, as well as the members of your Staff, leaving, however, Captain Clarke to assist on the part of Her Majesty's Government at the delimitation of the frontiers between Turkey and Russia in Asia, and placing Captain Murray at the disposal of Sir H. Layard.

I should wish that before returning to England you should proceed to Cyprus; but upon this subject I will again shortly communicate with you.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 679.

Lord Tenterden to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 28, 1878.

I AM directed by the Marquis of Salisbury to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 23rd instant, in which it is stated that the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty propose, with his Lordship's concurrence, to authorize Vice-Admiral Sir G. P. Hornby to carry out this suggestion, that the squadron under his command should be moved to Ismid for the winter.

In reply I am to state to you, for the information of the Board of Admiralty, that Lord Salisbury is not without hopes that the withdrawal of the Russian troops now occupying the Turkish provinces may shortly be carried into effect.

The Lords of the Admiralty must necessarily be the best judges how far the safety of Her Majesty's ships, and other reasons, may render it expedient that the squadron should not be longer kept at its present anchorages.

Bearing these considerations in view, which must be of paramount importance, Lord Salisbury is of opinion that it would be unadvisable at the present moment that the British squadron now stationed in the Sea of Marmora should be moved nearer to Constantinople; and his Lordship would suggest, for the consideration of the Lords of the Admiralty, that Sir G. P. Hornby might be instructed to await further orders from home before he leaves his anchorage at Artaki, unless absolutely obliged to do so in order to secure the safety of Her Majesty's ships under his command.

I am at the same time to state that Lord Salisbury has explained to Count Schouvaloff that the movement to Ismid must take place should the Russian occupation of the territory south of Eastern Roumelia be prolonged.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 680.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 810.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 21, 1878.*

THE "Official Gazette" contains a letter of the Emperor acceding to the request of General Philippovics for permission to quit the command of the occupying army in Bosnia, and to return to his former command at Prague. Although this letter is conceived in a highly complimentary tone, it is no secret that, whatever may be thought of the merits of the General's military operations, the line of conduct which he followed towards the populations of the occupied country was far from satisfactory to the Imperial Government.

If general rumour is to be trusted, there is much bitterness in consequence between him and Count Andrassy.

The Duke of Wurtemburg will occupy General Philippovics' place at Bosna-Serai.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 681.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 822. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 25, 1878.*

IN the course of a conversation this afternoon with the Russian Ambassador, mention was made of Count Andrassy's answer in the delegations to a question on the subject of the negotiations between Russia and Roumania, in which his Excellency had spoken of the discrepancy between the reports received respecting them from Bucharest and Livadia.

Although M. Novikow began by declaring himself altogether without information on the subject, he very shortly proceeded to say that he was in a position to affirm the entire incorrectness of the assertion that his Government had tried to secure an indefinite right of military passage through the Dobrudscha, all that they required being that when that district was incorporated with Roumania, it should be assimilated with the rest of the Principalities in regard to the passage of troops.

Upon being pressed, however, my colleague declined to affirm that this right of military passage was only asked for the period fixed by the Treaty of Berlin, and it turned out that what the Imperial Government intended was that the Convention of April 1877 should be extended to the Dobrudscha for whatever period that instrument might be held to be in force.

As your Lordship will probably by this time have learnt from Count Schouvaloff himself what the Russian Government are requiring from Roumania, it may perhaps scarcely have been necessary for me to report M. Novikow's language to you.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 682.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 823.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 26, 1878.*

MR. MONSON will have informed your Lordship of the defeat of the Austro-Hungarian Government in the Budget Committee of the Austrian Delegation, which refused to take into consideration the supplementary estimate of the cost of the occupation of Bosnia, on the ground of the assent of the Chamber not having been obtained to the Treaty of Berlin, under which this expense was incurred.

A very important Constitutional question has thus been raised, for the opposition maintain that a Treaty by the arrangements of which a large expenditure would be thrown upon the Austro-Hungarian Empire required the assent of the Legislative bodies before it was ratified and became valid. In support of this view of the

question the two following Articles of the Organic Law of December 1867 are relied upon, viz. (Reichsgesetzblatt No. 141, Art. II., Lit. A.), with reference to the duties of the Reichsrath. "The examination and sanction of commercial Treaties and of every State Treaty which affect the State or part thereof, or binds its individual inhabitants, or which results in a change of territory as regards the kingdom and countries represented in the Reichsrath, &c.," and also Article LXI of the fundamental laws of the State of December 21st, 1867, Reichsgesetzblatt No. 145.

"The Emperor concludes all commercial Treaties. The consent of the Reichsrath is necessary for the validity of commercial and of every State Treaty which affect the State or any part of it, or bind its individual inhabitants."

The Government, however, deny that they are applicable to the present case, considering that the vote of credit of 60,000,000 florins which they obtained in July last was a sufficient authorization for them to expend the money in the manner in which they considered the interest of the country to require.

If the occupation had taken place previous to the conclusion of the Treaty, or without any reference to it, though it might have been contended that the intention of the delegations had not been that the whole sum should be thus expended, the present Constitutional question would not have arisen, and the supporters of the Government may now ask whether the fact of the conclusion of the Treaty deprives them of the power they would otherwise have had.

The Treaty, together with the Protocols of the Congress, had been laid before the delegations as papers communicated for their information, but not for the purpose of receiving their sanction or ratification.

Count Andrassy, in speaking upon this subject to me at Pesth, having asked whether the Treaty of Berlin was submitted for the approval of Parliament previous to ratification, I said that Her Majesty's Government had been communicating all important documents bearing upon the Eastern question with the least possible delay, and that (for the first time, I believe), when no financial matter was involved) the Treaty was laid before Parliament before ratification, but not for the purpose of obtaining its sanction.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 683.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 824.)
My Lord, *Vienna, November 26, 1878.*

THOSE who are anxious to throw discredit on the identic reports signed by four of the Rhodope Commissioners have laid great stress on the abstention of Major Raab, which they have represented as a proof of his disbelieving the evidence upon which the accusations against the Russian troops were based.

I am able to inform your Lordship that such was not the case, and that Major Raab stated to his Government that he was too unwell at the time the Report was being drawn up to take any active share in preparing it, and that he thought it dealt too much upon the misconduct of the Russian troops to the exclusion of the other points which the Commission had been appointed to examine.

According to my information, upon which I have no hesitation in saying your Lordship may entirely rely, Major Raab, though not approving the whole report of his colleagues, did not represent the proceedings of the Russian troops in a more favourable light than they had done, in the separate Report that he had sent to his own Government, who, however, have not made it public.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 684.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, November 29.*)

(No. 66.)

Buda-Pesth, November 22, 1878.

Sir,

DR. FALK, the Editor of the "Pester Lloyd," who is the Reporter of the Committee for Foreign Affairs in the Hungarian Delegation, yesterday presented the following interpellation to Count Andrassy:—

"1. Is the Minister aware that, although the cession of Bessarabia by Roumania, in virtue of Article XLV of the Treaty of Berlin, is already effected, the Russians continue to delay the execution of the obligation imposed upon them by Article XLVI of the same Treaty, namely, the cession of the Dobrudscha?

"2. What knowledge has the Minister of the causes of this delay? especially, is he aware that the Russians demand, as a condition of the said cession, the conclusion of a Convention which will secure to Russia the right of passage through the said district (Dobrudscha) beyond and in addition to the term prescribed by the Treaty of Berlin?

"3. Does the Minister hold this, or any similar, interpretation of the Berlin Treaty as acceptable, which would make the execution of any unconditional obligation whatever of that Treaty subsequently dependent upon any condition whatever?

"4. Is the Minister of opinion that it is permissible that that stipulation of Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, which provides for the complete evacuation of the Roumanian territory by the Russians within a year from the ratification of the Treaty, shall be eluded in any direct way?"

The next sitting of the Hungarian Delegation will take place to-morrow evening, and it is probable that Count Andrassy will then answer this interpellation; but, as I understood from M. Balatchano last night that information had been received here of the abandonment by Russia of her pretensions in regard to the right of passage through the Dobrudscha, I conceive that the interest with which the public would have awaited Count Andrassy's explanations will be greatly impaired.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 685.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, November 29.*)

(No. 67. Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, November 22, 1878.

Sir,

WITH reference to Dr. Falk's interpellation (respecting the demands made by Russia on Roumania), reported in my preceding despatch No. 66 of this date, I cannot refrain from drawing your Excellency's attention to the fact, that that gentleman is on the very best terms with Count Andrassy; and that upon several occasions lately his Excellency has paid Dr. Falk a visit in the office of the "Pester Lloyd" (of which newspaper the doctor is editor), which visits have apparently not been without effect on the next day's leading articles.

Also, it is notorious that Dr. Falk receives an annual stipend from the Secret Service Fund, or from other funds at the disposal of the Government.

There can in fact be little doubt that the interpellation has been arranged with Count Andrassy; and that Dr. Falk would never have propounded it had such a course been disagreeable to the Minister.

I do not make this remark with the intention of casting any reflection upon the proceeding, which is after all in perfect consonance with the received usages of Parliamentary strategy; but only for the purpose of establishing the fact that it is no independent member of the delegations, but an intimate confidant of the Government who has been "put up" to ask these questions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 686.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, November 29.*)

(No. 68.)

Buda-Pesth, November 22, 1878.

Sir,

REPLYING this afternoon to an interpellation addressed to him some days ago by the Polish Members of the Austrian Delegation, Count Andrassy said that the Austro-Hungarian Government considered the Treaty of San Stefano, in so far as its stipulations were not modified by the Treaty of Berlin, to be binding upon the two Contracting Parties; but that the Austro-Hungarian Government could not admit that the evacuation of Turkish territory is dependent upon the conclusion of a new Convention.

Recently the Government had been authoritatively assured by Russia that any opinion of a Russian official in a contrary sense was to be taken as the expression of that individual's own opinion, and not as that by which the Russian Government would be guided in its dealings with the Porte.

Count Andrassy further declared that he had no official knowledge that Russian officers and soldiers were being incorporated in considerable numbers in the Bulgarian militia, and that he was not in a position to affirm that such, or the reverse, was the case.

By the Treaty of Berlin the organization of the Bulgarian militia falls within the competence of the Provisional Government of that province; and, although the Treaty contains no special provision as to the Bulgarian militia, it is precise upon the question of evacuation. The Austro-Hungarian Government is naturally bent upon the complete execution of the Treaty; and has recently received assurances from the Russian Government that, while Russia insists upon its full execution by Turkey, she is prepared on her part to fulfil all her own obligations.

Under these circumstances Count Andrassy hopes that the apprehensions expressed in the interpellation, namely, that the execution of the Treaty will be illusory, will turn out to be unfounded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 687.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(*Received at the Foreign Office, November 29.*)

(No. 72.)

Buda-Pesth, November 24, 1878.

Sir,

I RECEIVED, on the night of the 22nd instant, your Excellency's telegram, communicating to me one from the Marquis of Salisbury, containing an instruction to ascertain from Count Andrassy whether the Government of the Emperor would concur with that of Her Majesty in advising Roumania to occupy the Dobrudscha. I embodied the substance of that telegram in a letter which I sent early next morning to Baron Orczy, requesting him to submit it to Count Andrassy, and stating that I would go to Buda in the forenoon for the answer.

Count Andrassy was engaged all the morning, and could not see me; but he deputed Baron Orczy to assure me that he entirely concurred in the opinion expressed in the telegram, namely, that the Russian Government had no right to oppose the occupation of the Dobrudscha by Roumania the moment the latter had ceded Bessarabia. Count Andrassy had already, the day before yesterday, telegraphed to Count Hoyos, the Austro-Hungarian Minister at Bucharest, that he advised Roumania to occupy the Dobrudscha at once; and Baron Orczy believed that, in fact, the Roumanian troops would cross the Danube that very day, the 23rd.

Baron Orczy continued, that the reports received from Count Hoyos were much less alarming than those telegraphed to Lord Salisbury by Mr. White. Count Hoyos reported that the Government of Prince Charles had either actually come, or were on the point of coming, to an agreement with the Russian Minister, Baron Stuart, by which the existing Treaty arrangements as to the passage of Russian troops through the Principality should be extended to the Dobrudscha, which district, in virtue of Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, now becomes an integral part of Roumanian territory.

Count Andrassy had desired that I should be informed that he intended to make a statement in this sense to the Hungarian Delegation in the evening, in answer to the interpellation of Dr. Falk, notice of which I reported to your Excellency in my despatch No. 66 of the 22nd instant.

I telegraphed the result of my interview without delay to Lord Salisbury, and to your Excellency.

In the afternoon I called on M. Balatchano, the Roumanian Minister, who told me that he did not at all believe that Count Andrassy was rightly informed as to the present condition of the negotiations at Bucharest. He himself had every reason to fear that no arrangement had been arrived at; for he had received during the night a telegram from his Government desiring him not to leave Pesth, as he had intended doing, as a most important message would be telegraphed to him in the course of a few hours, and he could not imagine that it would have reference to anything but the question in dispute between the Government of Prince Charles and that of Russia.

Under these circumstances, I thought that I could not do better than return later, and find out what this important message might be; and when I did so at 8 o'clock in the evening M. Balatchano was so good as to read me the substance of the telegram sent to him at half-past 11 that morning from Bucharest.

In this telegram M. Cogalnichano stated that the prospect of an agreement with Russia was as distant as ever. That the Russians would not accept the proposal of the Roumanian Government to extend to the Dobrudscha the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the passage of troops. That, on the contrary, they insisted upon the extension of the original Convention of the 4th April, 1877, in virtue of which they would secure the right of erecting fortifications and other advantages which they would not enjoy under the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin. To this the Roumanian Government had declined to accede, and had consequently addressed a species of ultimatum to the Russian Minister, declaring that they could make no other terms than those which they had already offered, and that if these were not agreed to by the 28th instant (as I understood, for M. Balatchano said "the 16th, old style") the Government would advise Prince Charles to break off the negotiation, disband the army, and make an appeal to the Signatory Powers.

M. Balatchano had not finished reading this telegram to me when he was interrupted by a visitor, and I had no opportunity of continuing the conversation, and of ascertaining as accurately as I could have wished that the foregoing was all that he could tell me of the telegram he had received; but I thought it as well not to lose any time in telegraphing to your Excellency and to Lord Salisbury the purport of what he had said, as well as the fact, which had come to my knowledge, that Count Andrassy had just stated to the Hungarian Delegation that, though the reports he had received from Count Hoyos were calculated to assure him that Russia and Roumania were on the point of coming to an understanding, he was bound to add that he had received the most contradictory information from other quarters.

Later in the evening I had an opportunity of speaking to Count Andrassy himself. He said that, in face of all the contradictory reports which had reached him, he had been quite unable to decide what the real truth was; but that he had made his declaration to the Hungarian Delegation in answer to the interpellation of Dr. Falk; that he had spoken strongly as to the interpretation put by the Austro-Hungarian Government on the Treaty rights of Roumania; and that he had, in fact, committed himself entirely to the view that Russia could not oppose the occupation of the Dobrudscha now that she had received the cession of Bessarabia. "I have gone ahead," said Count Andrassy, as he left me, "and I look to your Government to back me up;" to which I replied that I was convinced that they would do so.

This morning's "Pester Lloyd" gives the following report of Count Andrassy's statement:—His Excellency said that on the 21st instant the Delegate Falk had addressed to him an interpellation consisting of four questions concerning the occupation of the Dobrudscha by Roumania. (The text of these questions is given in my despatch No. 66 of the 22nd instant.) As the first three of these questions are intimately connected with one another, Count Andrassy proposed to make one comprehensive answer to them, and to treat the fourth query separately.

His Excellency having read the first three points, declared as follows:—

The Government has itself received information that the Russian Representative at Bucharest has, before the cession of the Dobrudscha, demanded the conclusion of a Convention which shall secure to the Russian army the right of constant passage through the district.

Whether this has been put forward as a condition of the cession, and whether it is

but an apprehension of the Prince's Government as to the intentions of Russia, or a formal demand, Count Andrassy has not received sufficient information to state.

In the latter case it would be the business of the Roumanian Government to address themselves to the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin, which has not as yet happened. The view of the Austro-Hungarian Government is, and Count Andrassy could not doubt that no one would give the Treaty any other interpretation, that the moment Roumania ceded Bessarabia she had the right to occupy the Dobrudscha.

As for the right of passage for Russian troops, the Austro-Hungarian Government thus understands it, viz., that the Dobrudscha, in virtue of the Treaty of Berlin, is Roumanian territory, and therefore the obligations undertaken by Roumania upon this head apply also to the Dobrudscha; but that the stipulations of Article XXII of the Treaty of Berlin, which provide for the complete evacuation of the Roumanian territory within the term of one year, apply equally and of course to the Dobrudscha.

This comprises the Minister's answer to the first three points.

His Excellency having read the fourth question proceeded as follows:—

In regard to this head of the interpellation, the Government cannot admit that any point whatever of the Berlin Treaty can be evaded; but his Excellency did not believe, and had no ground for believing, that such a view existed in any quarter. In this opinion he was confirmed, as he had the day before stated to the Austrian Delegation, by the fact that quite recently he had received from an authoritative source the assurance that Russia, while exacting the execution of the Treaty from the other Contracting Parties, was determined, on her own part, to carry out every point of it.

This, proceeded Count Andrassy, was his answer to the interpellation. He would only add that, as he had wished to give an accurate explanation of the existing condition of affairs at Bucharest, he had inquired to that effect of the Austro-Hungarian Minister there, and had that day been informed that there was good ground for hoping that the Roumanian Government and the Russian Minister would come to an understanding respecting the questions in dispute, upon a basis in harmony with the Treaty of Berlin; and that the occupation of the Dobrudscha would follow immediately.

But his Excellency must explain that he had at the same time received from another source a declaration which did not entirely agree with the preceding; so that he was not able to give any positive assurance as to the actual position of affairs, and must, therefore, confine himself to the statement of the point of view assumed by the Imperial Government, which he had now the honour to specify.

Dr. Falk having declared himself satisfied with the answer which Count Andrassy had made to his interpellation, and the Delegation having agreed to take cognizance of it, his Excellency rose again, and, in thanking the Delegation for their approval, begged to be allowed to repeat that he had not sufficient information to be able to declare positively whether the pretensions of the Russian Government had been formally put forward, or whether it was merely that the Roumanian Government apprehended that such might be the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 686.

Mr. Monson to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, November 29.)

(No. 74.)
Sir, *Buda-Pesth, November 25, 1878.*

COUNT ANDRASSY'S position as Minister for Foreign Affairs has received a rude shock in the action taken in the Financial Committee of the Austrian Delegation yesterday. That body had before it the Government proposal for a vote of 60,000,000 florins supplementary credit on account of the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

The President of the Committee, Dr. Herbst, having requested Prince Czartoryski to preside as his substitute, opposed the Government proposal. His chief argument against it was that the Treaty of Berlin, by which the occupation was initiated, had never been ratified by the Legislature.

It seems impossible to deny that, from a constitutional point of view, this aspect of the question has much in its favour. Dr. Herbst quoted the statutes having reference to this point; and his final proposal to the Committee amounted to this—that although the Treaty had been laid before the Reichsrath on the 4th of this month, that body, in consequence of its adjournment, had not yet been in a position to pronounce upon it; and that therefore the delegation, putting aside the supplementary credit vote brought forward by the Government, should pass to the order of the day.

Count Andrassy made a long speech in reply, which want of time and of clerical aid compels me to analyse very briefly. His Excellency could not dispute Dr. Herbst's legal position as regarded the claim of the Reichsrath to have the Treaty submitted to it; but he argued that the application of this constitutional right should be rather subject to other considerations than exclusively based upon the literal interpretation of the law; for otherwise it might happen that a Treaty agreed to by all the Powers of Europe, and ratified by the Emperor-King, would be annulled by the Legislature of one portion of the Empire; a view which he (Count Andrassy) could not accept. His Excellency argued further, that as Austria was but a portion of the whole Empire, so also the whole Empire was a portion of the European system, and that it was a recognized usage that all the Powers of Europe should constitute a forum, or areopagus, before which international differences should be brought for settlement. This system had been found to work well in practice; but how would it be if the full powers of a Representative were not to be held to be absolute, but subject to the whim of some single Legislature or other extraneous factor?

The Emperor had the sole right of declaring war and concluding peace, and his Excellency argued that the Treaty of Berlin was a Treaty of peace, and that the Emperor's ratification was therefore final and conclusive.

Turning to the analogy of other countries, his Excellency pointed out that in Italy, where there was an enactment something similar to that of Austria, the Treaty was presented to the Legislature for cognizance, and not for acceptance. In France it had been only presented in the Yellow Book. As for England, which was so fortunate as to have Parliamentary rights of many centuries standing, founded on no code but on the basis of sensible practice, he had consulted the English Ambassador, and your Excellency had assured him that no member of the opposition, not to speak of the Government party, would dream of bringing forward for discussion the acceptance or rejection of a Treaty.

Count Andrassy was persuaded that such pretensions, far from serving the cause of those who defended Parliamentary privileges, would only tend to make the latter illusory, and he quoted the fable of Æsop respecting the risk of losing the substance for the sake of the shadow. He admitted the exclusive right of Parliament to carry out certain international arrangements by legislation, as had been done by the Bill for the incorporation of Spizza into Dalmatia, and he would not dispute the contention, that the will of united Europe could not force a country into making annexations. But the occupation of Bosnia was no incorporation, it was an action undertaken in execution of a European mandate—a foreign action, so to speak, for which the common Government was answerable to the delegations only. The latter body might legally discuss the question to any extent they pleased, but Count Andrassy would not allow that he, as Minister for Foreign Affairs, had any obligation to concern himself with questions of internal State rights, which should be discussed with the Austrian, not the Imperial Government.

In conclusion, Count Andrassy said that there were two courses open to the Committee; the one clear and straightforward, namely, the discussion of the Government proposal, in which discussion there would be no danger of any attempt to curtail the full liberty of every member to deliberate and to decide upon the conduct of the Government. The other course was the devious one of overstepping these limits in the direction pointed out by Dr. Herbst. It was for the Committee to decide. His Excellency conceived that he had done his duty in giving his views frankly and without reservation.

After a very long discussion, in the course of which Count Andrassy made a few more observations, the Committee divided, and Dr. Herbst's proposal was carried by fourteen to six.

Your Excellency will not need to be told that this decision has produced a vast amount of excitement. It is the first real check which Count Andrassy's policy has experienced at the hands of the delegation; and although the plenary sitting may, and very likely will, eventually over-ride the decision of the Committee, it would be idle to deny that his Excellency's prestige must, to a certain extent, suffer.

Moreover, there is little doubt that, during the last week or so, the debates on the Address in the Hungarian Diet have not tended to strengthen M. Tisza, who has again had to exert all his eloquence to dissipate the dangerous effect of the assertions that he and Count Andrassy have an understanding with Russia, upon which their foreign policy is based.

M. Tisza made a brilliant speech the day before yesterday, which even his enemies admit to have been one of his happiest efforts, but for the reasons already given I am unable to enter into a detailed report of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 689.

Lord A. Loftus to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(No. 954.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, November 24, 1878.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Golos," reproduced in translation in the "Agence Russe," respecting the provisions laid down in the Treaty of Berlin with regard to the passage of the Russian troops through Roumania and the Dobrudscha during the occupation by Russia of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia.

This article points out that Russia having no fleet in the Black Sea, her lines of communication by sea are only serviceable so long as they remain unmenaced. Should these be broken, her communication with Bulgaria and Roumelia would be entirely dependent on the arrangements to be concluded with Roumania. By Article XLVI of the Treaty of Berlin Roumania acquires the Dobrudscha, but the annexation is subjected to no particular conditions, consequently the consent of the Roumanian Government is indispensable if the Russians wish to preserve their communications through that province. In the event of Roumania and Russia not agreeing on this point, the latter must either give up its right of occupation or employ force. Under existing circumstances Russia cannot think of recalling her army; therefore she must secure a military basis on the lower course of the Danube. Thus, concludes the article, evidence is again shown of the impossibility of literally executing the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) AUGUSTUS LOFTUS.

Inclosure in No. 689.

Extract from the "Golos."

La Roumanie et la Russie.—L'Article XXII du Traité de Berlin, qui fixe le nombre des troupes Russes d'occupation en Bulgarie et en Roumélie, établit en outre qu'elles conserveront leurs communications avec la Russie par la Roumanie, d'après les arrangements à conclure entre les deux Etats, et par les ports de la Mer Noire, Varna, et Bourgas, où elles pourront, pour la durée de l'occupation, organiser les dépôts nécessaires. Or, voici ecqu'écrit le "Golos" à ce sujet:—

"La route maritime aurait pour nous de l'importance dans le cas seulement où rien ne viendrait menacer nos communications: dans le cas contraire, à défaut d'une flotte Russe, nos communications par mer seront interrompues des les premières hostilités. Quant à nos communications par terre elles dépendent des arrangements à conclure entre la Russie et la Roumanie. Et si cet arrangement n'a pas lieu? Le Traité de Berlin n'a pas prévu cette éventualité. La question pourtant se complique du fait que la Roumanie, en vertu de l'Article XLVI du Traité, reçoit la Dobroudja, territoire confinant à la Bessarabie Russe, dont l'annexion n'est soumise à aucune condition; il est par conséquent naturel qu'afin que les Russes conservent leurs communications par la Dobroudja l'autorisation du Gouvernement Roumain est indispensable. Supposons que la Roumanie et la Russie ne parviennent pas à s'entendre là-dessus, alors de deux choses l'une: ou la Russie doit retirer ses troupes en renonçant à son droit d'occupation, ou bien, en présence du refus de la Roumanie, employer la force pour faire respecter son droit de libre passage au moins à travers tout le territoire

situé sur le cours inférieur du Danube. Dans les circonstances actuelles, la Russie ne peut penser à rappeler son armée; donc elle serait obligée de s'assurer une base militaire sur le cours inférieur du Danube. . . . . Voilà encore une des impossibilités d'exécuter le Traité de Berlin que nous avons déjà signalées et une des graves lacunes laissées par l'œuvre du Congrès."

No. 690.

M. de Giers to Count Schouvaloff.—(Communicated to the Marquis of Salisbury by Count Schouvaloff, November 29.)

(Télégraphique.) *Livadia, le $\frac{16}{28}$ Novembre*, 1878.

NOTRE Délégué à la Commission de Délimitation Bulgaro-Roumaine n'ayant pu tomber d'accord avec ses collégues sur le point de départ de la frontière à l'est de Silistrie, nous avons dû déférer cette question à la décision de la Conférence des Ambassadeurs à Constantinople. Le Prince Lobanoff nous informe aujourd'hui que, contrairement à notre attente, aucun de ses collègues ne se croit autorisé à se prononcer à ce sujet. La question ne peut rester en suspens, vu que le Gouvernement Roumain doit être à l'heure qu'il est en possession de la Dobroudja, et que l'incertitude sur le tracé de la frontière peut entraîner à des malentendus et des complications regrettables qu'il est urgent de prévenir.

En vue de ce qui précède, l'Empereur veut que vous adressiez au Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité la demande instante de munir son Représentant à Constantinople d'instructions nécessaires pour procéder de commun accord avec ses collégues à l'examen de cette question.

No. 691.

Colonel Siborne to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received November 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Galatz, November 29*, 1878.

PARAGRAPHS 20 and 25 of Protocol 319 forwarded 26th instant. Explain action taken. Will report further by letter.

No. 692.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 29*, 1878, 3·30 P.M.

YOU are authorized to give title of "Your Highness" to the Prince.

No. 693.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir H. Elliot.**

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 29*, 1878, 6 P.M.

LABANOFF at Constantinople has continued to make evacuation of Turkey Proper conditional on fresh Convention being signed, and holds out hopes of shortening period of occupation from three months mentioned in San Stefano Treaty to a shorter period if it is signed. Schouvaloff, on being reproached with this inconsistency, repudiates Labanoff's doctrine that Treaty of Berlin is not definitive Treaty, and consequently his appeal to Treaty of San Stefano; but with respect to evacuation being conditional on signature of fresh Convention, shifts his ground perpetually, and refuses a definite statement one way or the other. Practically he intimates we shall not get Todleben's army out unless a Convention is signed, simply reiterating provisions of San Stefano not altered at Berlin; but if it is signed, and Spuz and Podgoritza evacuated, says he will evacuate immediately. I have protested strongly against any pretension to make evacuation conditional on signature, and have said that until

* A similar telegram was sent to Lord A. Loftus and Lord Odo Russell.

Article IV of proposed Convention is revised, I cannot advise Porte to sign it. He promises a revised version on Wednesday. I declined to say whether I would recommend Porte to sign it till I had seen it.

No. 694.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November 29*, 1878, 6 P.M.

COUNT SCHOUVALOFF has modified his tone. He now maintains that he has a right to require a Convention, recapitulating those Articles of the Treaty of San Stefano which were not modified at Berlin, and that he has a right to do so before evacuating Turkey Proper, which he calls Southern Roumelia, but he does not say that he has a right to make one a condition of the other; a claim which we and the Austrians strongly deny. In effect, his position is that we shall not practically get rid of the Russian troops till the Convention is signed, but that the moment that is done and Spuz and Podgoritza are evacuated, Todleben will retire, and the army south of Danube will be reduced to 50,000 men.

I pointed out to him that sub-section E of Article IV in the Convention he brought me could not possibly be accepted, for while it bound the Turks to admit the administration of Russia in Southern Roumelia until evacuation, it made no kind of promise as to the term of evacuation.

He asked me whether, if Convention contained promise of immediate evacuation, and was otherwise a mere recapitulation of stipulations in San Stefano Treaty, I would recommend it to the Turks.

I declined to answer till I had seen the revised project of Convention, which he promised me for Wednesday next.

He told me Turks pretended that the signature to the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano did not bind them to the indemnity. Have you ever heard of any such contention? I should be glad of your opinion whether any harm would come of their signing a Convention revised as I have stated. If not, it might be worth while to obtain immediate evacuation by doing so. Meanwhile, press earnestly retirement from Spuz and Podgoritza. Do not let Porte sign the unrevised Convention.

No. 695.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 1475.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, November 29*, 1878.

WITH reference to my telegram of the 25th instant, and to your Excellency's reply of the following day, I have to state to you that Count Schouvaloff has modified his tone. He now maintains that Russia has a right to require from the Porte the signature of a Convention which shall recapitulate those Articles of the Treaty of San Stefano which were not modified by the Congress of Berlin, before her troops are withdrawn from Turkey proper, which he calls Southern Roumelia; but he does not insist that she has a right to make this operation conditional upon such signature, a claim which both Her Majesty's Government and that of Austria strongly deny.

In effect, however, his position is that practically the Russian troops will not be withdrawn until the Convention is signed, but that immediately that is done and Spuz and Podgoritza are delivered up, General Todleben will retire, and the Russian army south of the Danube be reduced to 50,000 men.

Count Schouvaloff has shown me the draft of the Convention as submitted to the Porte by General Todleben, and I have pointed out to him that sub-section E of Article IV could not possibly be signed by the Turks, for while it bound them to accept the administration of Russia in Southern Roumelia until the completion of the evacuation, it made no kind of promise as to the time needed for that operation.

His Excellency inquired whether, if the Convention contained a promise of immediate evacuation, and was otherwise a mere recapitulation of those stipulations in the Treaty of San Stefano which had not been modified by the Treaty of Berlin I would recommend the Turks to sign it. I declined to give an answer until I had

seen the revised Project, which he promised he would communicate to me next Wednesday. The Turks, he told me, pretended that their signature of the Preliminary Treaty of San Stefano did not bind them to pay the indemnity.

I should wish to hear from your Excellency whether any such contention has ever come to your knowledge.

I request that your Excellency will be good enough to inform me whether, in your opinion, there is any objection to the signature of a new Convention when revised as suggested by Count Schouvaloff.

If you consider that such a proceeding would be harmless, Her Majesty's Government are disposed to think that it would be to the advantage of Turkey to obtain the withdrawal of General Todleben's army by signing the Convention. But you should meanwhile continue earnestly to press the Porte to retire from Spuz and Podgoritza. In no case, however, should the Porte consent to sign the Convention as it stands without revision.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 696.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(No. 49.)
Foreign Office, November 29, 1878.

Sir,

IN reply to your telegram of the 22nd instant, inquiring whether you may officially recognize, in the name of Her Majesty the Queen, the assumption by Prince Milan of the title of Highness, I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government see no objection to such recognition, and I have accordingly authorized you this day by telegraph to make a communication to this effect to the Servian Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 697.

*The Marquis of Salisbury to Lord A. Loftus.**

(No. 611.)
Foreign Office, November 29, 1878.

My Lord,

PRINCE LABANOFF has continued to make the evacuation of Turkey proper by Russia conditional upon the signature of a fresh Convention between the two Powers; and he holds out hopes to the Porte that the period of occupation may be shortened from three months, as stipulated in Article XXV of the Treaty of San Stefano, to a less period if it is signed.

Count Schouvaloff, when I reproached him with the inconsistency between his own assurances to me and the demands of Prince Labanoff, repudiated the doctrine advanced by the latter, that the Treaty of Berlin is not the definitive Treaty between Russia and Turkey, and consequently also disallows the appeal to the Treaty of San Stefano. But he shifts his ground perpetually with respect to Prince Labanoff's pretension, that the evacuation must be dependent upon the signature of a fresh Convention, and he declines to make a definite statement one way or the other. Practically, he intimates that General Todleben's army will not be withdrawn unless a Convention is signed which shall simply reiterate those provisions of the Treaty of San Stefano which have not been altered by the Congress of Berlin.

If it is signed, and Spuz and Podgoritza are evacuated, he says that General Todleben will evacuate immediately.

I have protested strongly against any pretension to make the evacuation conditional upon signing the Convention; and I have stated to Count Schouvaloff that, until Article IV of the draft Convention, as submitted to the Porte by Prince Labanoff, has been revised, Her Majesty's Government cannot recommend its acceptance by the Porte.

Count Schouvaloff has promised to bring with him on Wednesday a revised

* Identic despatches were addressed to Sir H. Elliot and Lord Odo Russell.

version of the Convention, but I declined to say whether I would recommend the Porte to sign any Convention until I had seen the project he spoke of.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 698.

Acting Consul Lyall to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 41. Consular.)
My Lord, *Tiflis, November* 2, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report, for your Lordship's information, that His Imperial Highness the Grand Duke Michael, who has just completed his tour of inspection round the Turco-Russian frontier, proposes to leave Tiflis for St. Petersburgh on the 10th instant; his stay there, however, will not, it is now said, exceed three weeks' duration.

From 15,000 to 20,000 troops of all arms, including several batteries of artillery, are still cantoned in and around Tiflis; troops are in motion on all the military roads throughout the Caucasus. These are always said to be "going to their homes," but in reality fresh regiments marching from the north supply the places of those who are withdrawn. It is in reality merely a system of reliefs.

They have decided on establishing a corps d'armée permanently at Tiflis.

There is considerable excitement with regard to the contemplated occupation of Afghanistan by our troops, and volunteers are talked of, and subscriptions, in order to purchase arms for the Afghans; in fact, the same assistance as was rendered to the Servians is proposed, but it is improbable that any serious steps will, under any circumstances, be taken before the spring.

I arranged six weeks ago to get immediate intelligence from Astrakhan and Baku of any contemplated or actual movements of troops in those quarters, but have received none as yet. A communication was only to be made in case anything was going on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) WALTER TSCHUDI LYALL.

No. 699.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received November* 30.)

My Lord, *Admiralty, November* 29, 1878.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit to you herewith, for the information of the Marquis of Salisbury, a copy of a Report from Commander Musgrave, of Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice," dated 4th November, 1878, No. 21, at Galatz, of the movements of Her Majesty's ship under his command, and of the proceedings of the Russians at Toulcha, Reni, Kustendje, and Sulina.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 699.

Commander Musgrave to Vice-Admiral Sir G. Hornby.

Sir, *"Cockatrice," at Galatz, November* 4, 1878.

I HAVE the honour to report that I left Sulina in Her Majesty's ship "Cockatrice" on 5th October, and arrived at Toultcha the same evening.

2. Here the Russians have constructed, for facility in crossing the river, five stages on each bank, with corresponding pontoons. The guns of the earthworks have been dismounted, but otherwise they are not dismantled.

3. I left Toultcha for Galatz on the 7th October.

4. At Reni the Russians have stored an immense quantity of coal, reported

to be about 200,000 tons, and from what I observed I should not consider this exaggerated.

5. The occupation of the Dobrudscha by the Roumanians is stated to take place on the 27th instant, and lighters have been sent to Ibraïla, and preparations made for the crossing of the troops there; but nothing seems permanently settled, as the Russians have remounted their batteries at Kustendje, and put those at Sulina into a thorough state of repair, and re-levelled the platforms.

6. The health of the ship's company remains very good.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ARCHER J. W. MUSGRAVE.

No. 700.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 30.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, November* 29, 1878.

I HAVE spoken to Minister for Foreign Affairs on the subject of your Lordship's telegram of yesterday to Her Majesty's Commissioner on the Danube.

[He?] fully agrees in view taken by Her Majesty's Government, and will send similar instructions to the Imperial German Commissioner at once.

No. 701.

Colonel Home to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received November* 30.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, November* 30, 1878.

CLARKE has received his instructions from Ambassador; he requires a credit of 500*l*. Who is to advance this? Am I, from funds of the Bulgarian Boundary Commission. Please reply by telegraph to enable him to go Monday next.

No. 702.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. Gould.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1878, 2·5 P.M.

WITH reference to Major Wilson's despatch No. 14, Confidential, of the 10th instant, tell him to try and get the boundary of the Commune of Prepolac adopted by the Commission as the frontier-line.

No. 703.

The Marquis of Salisbury to Mr. White.

(No. 81.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, November* 30, 1878.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 231 of the 16th instant.

I have now to state to you that I entirely approve your proceedings as reported in that despatch, in pointing out to the persons chiefly interested in the question the danger to Roumania of contracting secret engagements towards Russia.

Prince Charles and his Ministers will best consult the interests of the country by a strict observance on their part of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.